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VICTORIA.

CORANDERRK ABORIGINAL STATION.



REPORT

OF THE BOARD APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO, AND REPORT
UPON, THE PRESENT CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT OF
THE CORANDERRK ABORIGINAL STATION, TOGETHER WITH
THE MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT BY HIS EXCELLENCY'S COMMAND.

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REPORT.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR IN COUNCIL.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY—

We, the Board appointed to enquire into, and report upon, the present condition and management of the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station, beg leave to report as follows :—

1. We have held twelve meetings and examined 69 witnesses, of whom 48 were white and 21 black.

2. We visited Coranderrk twice, on both of which occasions we found the place clean and tidy, and the Aborigines orderly and, to all appearance, well-fed and clad.

3. We also examined the store room, in which rations and clothing are kept, both of which were of good quality.

4. The working Blacks do not obtain meat from the station, but buy it where they like, out of the wages they receive. We consider this objectionable, and suggest that they should be fully supplied with everything, and their wages adjusted accordingly.

5. We regret the absence of all kinds of vegetables, which might easily be produced on the place.

6. The health of the Aborigines seems at least as good as at any period during their residence at the station. They are not, however, satisfied with the management; and they desire to see the Central Board with its inspector and superintendent abolished, and have the station managed direct from the Chief Secretary's Department, with Mr. Green as overseer.

7. We are of opinion that the station is not so well managed as could be desired. The cattle are not well looked after, otherwise there is no reason why an ample supply of meat and dairy produce should not be obtained. This is to be ascribed partly to too much attention being directed to the hop ground, at the expense of the farm and station.

8. We beg to recommend the immediate enclosing and subdivision of the station with a substantial three-rail fence, and the erection of two new houses, which would make the dwellings complete. Several other improvements might also be accomplished at very little cost, such as a proper road to the place, draining, grubbing, and clearing around the village.

9. We recommend only the cultivation of as much hops as can be managed with the labor of the Blacks alone, and that more attention should be paid to the farm.

10. An hospital, with proper medical attendance, should be provided, where the aged and the sick could be treated, instead of being sent to Melbourne, where they are never satisfied and but seldom cured.

11. A strict method of distributing clothing should be observed.

12. We deem it undesirable to allow the Blacks to own more than one horse each on the station, and no cattle, as it creates jealousy and encourages them to leave their employment.

13. We recommend that both male and female half-castes and quadroons over thirteen years of age should be encouraged to hire themselves out, under proper supervision.

14. We are of opinion that the full-blooded Blacks should be maintained in comfort, and that their rations ought not to depend upon their work, nevertheless

every encouragement should be given to the industrious to work, by offering them small wages which they might expend in articles of luxury which the State could not be expected to provide.

15. We recommend that a superintendent be engaged who thoroughly understands the management of a farm and stock, as well as the Aborigines, and under no consideration should the management be divided.

16. A white working overseer and a white stockrider (married, if possible) should be employed, the former being essentially necessary for the working of the farm and hop ground and the latter because the Aborigines, as a rule, are not sufficiently under control to be always available, but they might act as assistants if required.

17. We consider that the school ought to be under the Education Department.

18. We beg to acknowledge the valuable assistance rendered to us by Mr. Lincolne, as Shorthand writer and Secretary.

E. H. CAMERON, Chairman,

ANNE F. BON

(subject to Protest as in Addendum A),

THOMAS EMBLING

(subject to Protest as in Addendum A),

JNO. L. DOW

(subject to Protest as in Addendum A),

THOS. ARMSTRONG,

JOHN KERR

(subject to Protest as in Addendum A),

DUNCAN McNAB

(subject to Protest as in Addendum A),

G. DE PURY,

JAMES C. STEEL.

ADDENDUM A.

1. We, the undersigned members of the Board, while agreeing to affix our names to the above Report, feel it our duty to attach the following additional remarks and recommendations thereto :—

2. The natives complain with unanimity of the entire absence of sympathy with them, alike as regards the Central Board, the general inspector, and the manager.

3. To clause 1 of Report, ending "black," add :—"Coranderrk consists of 4,800 acres of land, and is by far the most important of the two stations under the direct charge of the Central Board, the other four being mission stations under the care of certain churches. The natives seem much attached to the place, where many of them have lived nearly 20 years, and more than 100 of their number lie buried in the station cemetery."

4. To clause 2 of Report, after "well clad," add :—"It is but right, however, to mention that the Aborigines were all dressed in new clothes when the Board visited Coranderrk. But the only food there for the Blacks was dry bread and tea, excepting in two huts, where there was some wallaby and native bear."

5. We desire to add the following to clause 5 of the Report :—"And for want of which the health of the Aborigines must necessarily suffer."

6. We desire to add the following to clause 7 of the Report :—"And partly to the incompetency or culpable negligence of the Board and its officers."

7. We desire that clause 10 of the Report should be preceded by the following :—"We refer with regret to the apparently heartless indifference manifested by the Central Board and its officers toward the sick and dying natives, whose sufferings compelled them to seek the refuge of the Melbourne Hospital. Sent by the coach, poorly clad, without provisions or money, or any officer being told off to meet them in Melbourne, they were dropped at the coach office to find their way as best they could, without any letter or introduction to the hospital authorities, or to wander about the streets until some benevolent hand helped them to a friendly shelter. A late case of this kind was that of William, the chief of the Yarra tribe, when he brought his dying child to Melbourne."

8. After clause 10 of Report, ending "cured," add :—"We would submit that it is most desirable a medical gentleman should be subsidised to reside at Healesville, and visit and attend at Coranderrk. In 1876 the medical charges of the stations were £444; in 1878-79-80 they were £1,083. Some of the mission stations have gratuitous medical assistance. In 1876 a doctor from Melbourne and a doctor from Lilydale met at Coranderrk several times for consultation. One doctor near at hand would have been of ten times more efficient service."

9. We desire that the following should precede clause 11 of the Report :—"The natives allege that they were irregularly and inadequately supplied with clothing, and to this allegation no rebuttal was possible, owing to the distribution taking place without regard to any system of check or proof as to whom the stores were given, or by whom distributed. This mode of procedure appears liable to great abuse. The evidence on this point is most conclusive."

10. We desire to express our dissent from clause 12, considering such limitation uncalled for. The Aborigines deny the existence of jealousy among themselves.

11. We desire to add the following to clause 13 :—"And to that end we recommend that they should be carefully trained with a distinct purpose of fitting them to leave the station for suitable employment, the station still to be considered their home, and the manager their friend and adviser. We would also recommend that the wages to the natives on the station be paid punctually, and at not longer intervals than once a month. Four young women appealed very earnestly to your Board for permission to go out to service, and they appeared quite eligible for any ordinary situation. Why this has not hitherto been done appears incomprehensible."

12. To clause 15 of the Report we would add the following :—"And that his appointment should be directly from the Chief Secretary."

13. We also dissent from clause 16. There has been a white overseer already on the station for 18 years past, and such an officer is needed. We do not think a

white stockrider is. It is in our opinion most desirable the station should, where possible, be manned by Aborigines only, and they make good stockriders.

14. Clause 17 of Report.—The question of placing the school under the Education Department we think might be left in the hands of the head of the Aboriginal Department—the Hon. the Chief Secretary.

15. We would specially recommend that ministers of religion be encouraged to stately visit the station to impart to its people a knowledge of the consolations of the Christian faith.

16. We note, as a matter reflecting on the administration of the Central Board, that during the last five years the amount expended exceeded by £16,000 the expenses of the first five years of the Board's existence, although the Aborigines have dwindled down during the last twenty years from 2,400 to a few hundreds. It must, however, be remembered as a factor in the question of cost that, while during the earlier years the natives were simply a heavy charge on the State, during the last 13 years certain industries—notably hops—have been yielding large returns, Coranderrk alone showing from 1877 to 1881 a result of £5,634 11s. 11d. This is an item of more than common interest.

17. We would invite attention to the difficulty encountered in obtaining an explanation of the accounts from the general inspector. When questioned, he was not able to answer, and the Board adjourned to enable him to obtain the necessary information. When given, the explanation was not satisfactory. All the station accounts were mixed together, so that it was impossible to trace an account of Coranderrk by itself. We are of opinion that the accounts of each station should be kept distinct and separate. And we would recommend that the accounts should close with the current year. Hitherto the years are mixed up in a most peculiar manner.

18. No evidence was tendered of any inspection of Coranderrk by the general inspector, and not a single record of inspection appears in any annual report since the present officer's appointment; nor was it shown that he had ever communicated with the natives or enquired into their condition. On the contrary, they state that when they complained to him he refused to take any notice of them.

19. We are of opinion that the duty of inspection falls completely within Mr. Neal's sphere of action, and that an adequate inspection would conduce largely to the comfort and happiness of the natives by ensuring a more judicious expenditure of public money.

20. The natives appear to have been chiefly stirred into a state of active discontent by the pertinacity of the Central Board in pressing upon successive Governments the gratuitous advice that the Blacks should be removed from Coranderrk. The natives also bitterly complained of the removal of Mr. Green, who appears to have won their confidence and respect. On these points the evidence is very full.

21. We do not consider that the charge made against the natives, by the Central Board, of immorality and untruthfulness has been proven.

22. A mention has been made of a local committee, but we regret to have to express the opinion that it would not conduce to the happiness of the Blacks. They earnestly desire to be free of Boards, and to be under the direct control of the Chief Secretary. We feel assured that, if a good manager be appointed, and Mr. Neal visited the station, a sure guarantee would be afforded that it would be well conducted.

23. We recommend the permanent reservation of the land in trust for the Aborigines; that the post of General Inspector be abolished, it having become a sinecure; that the clerical duties be assigned to an officer in the Chief Secretary's Department; that the station be supplied by tender only; and that the custom of supplying wines and spirits to the station be peremptorily discontinued.

24. We recommend that the Central Board should be relieved of the management of Coranderrk.

DUNCAN McNAB,
ANNE F. BON,
THOMAS EMBLING,
JNO. L. DOW,
JOHN KERR.

ADDENDUM B.

We, the undersigned members of the Coranderrk Enquiry Board, beg most respectfully to submit for your consideration the following additional Addendum, viz. :—

To provide against future complaints and to meet the exceptional condition of Coranderrk, which is situated in the midst of a white population, and also to render it unnecessary for the Blacks to make special journeys to Melbourne, whenever they have any grievances to ventilate, we should strongly recommend the appointment of a local committee of three gentleman to visit the station at intervals, for the purpose of enquiring into the condition of the inhabitants, and examining into the management of the place. Such committee to report to the Central Board. We are convinced that the Board have every desire to promote the comfort of the Blacks under their care. The readiness of the members and officers to afford us full information regarding the management of Coranderrk showed that they were anxious that defects, wherever they existed, should be discovered, and where practicable remedied.

We have no doubt, therefore, that, in the carrying out of the improvements the Board of Enquiry suggest, the Government will receive the willing co-operation of the Central Board. If, after those improvements have had a fair trial, the discontent still exists, we advise the breaking-up of Coranderrk and the removal of the Blacks to an isolated part of the colony, under missionary management.

With regard to the opinions expressed in the Addendum by five members of the Board, in justice to ourselves, we deem it right to say that we think it scarcely within the province of the Board to offer any criticism on the general proceedings of the Central Board, who have five other stations besides Coranderrk under their control, from each of which we had ample testimony that they are satisfied with the management, respecting which we were not directed to take any evidence or make any enquiry ; nor do we agree with the view of the members signing Addendum A—that Coranderrk should be withdrawn from the control of the Central Board and placed under the management of the Chief Secretary's Department. In our opinion, the defects observable at Coranderrk cannot be so easily laid to the charge of the Central Board as to warrant us in advising that they should be superseded or an alteration made, the effects of which have not been carefully pondered over.

The close proximity of the station to Healesville, and the impossibility of preventing the Blacks from holding intercourse with persons who have no special interest in teaching them habits of self-restraint or content, and the opportunity they have of making complaints—which may be well or ill founded—to credulous sympathizers, appear to us to have rendered the task of superintending the station unusually difficult, and to have had much more to do with promoting disaffection than any want of interest or attention on the part of the Central Board or their officers in the welfare of the Blacks under their care at Coranderrk. The healthy appearance of all the residents induced us to believe that they could have no substantial grounds for saying they were neglected or were insufficiently fed or irregularly clothed. As for the wishes they expressed in favor of a change, they must be, from the nature of the case, the least capable of all persons in deciding how or by whom the station should be managed. With the alterations which we have all unanimously recommended, and the assistance of a visiting committee, we think that the station can be safely left in the hands of the Central Board.

E. H. CAMERON, Chairman,
THOS. ARMSTRONG,
G. DE PURY,
JAMES C. STEEL.

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE

TAKEN BEFORE THE BOARD APPOINTED TO ENQUIRE INTO THE CONDITION OF
THE ABORIGINAL STATION AT CORANDERRK.

THURSDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER 1881.

Present:

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair ;
G. De Pury, Esq., | J. Kerr, Esq.,
T. Armstrong, Esq., J.P.

The Rev. Frederick Philip Strickland examined.

1. You are the manager of the Coranderrk station?—I am.
2. How long have you been here?—Three years on the 26th of the present month.
3. How many blacks are under your charge here on the station?—[*The witness referred to a book*]
—Ninety-four.
4. Altogether?—Ninety-four at this time.
5. How many of them are pure blacks?—Male adults, 12.
6. How many females?—Eleven.
7. Can you tell us how many half-castes there are?—Ten male, 11 female; male quadroon, 1; female quadroon, 1.
8. Does that make the total number, or are there any other degrees?—No other degrees, but there are the children. Black children—3 male, 4 female. Half-castes—male, 20; female, 14. Quadroons—male, 2; female, 5.
9. How many are there of the distinct Yarra tribe?—William Barak and Ann Briggs are the only two.
10. Can you inform the Board where the rest of those on the station have come from?—Yes. There are two from Dunolly, four from the Lower Loddon, four from the Avoca, five from the Lower Goulburn, five from the Loddon, four from Gippsland, one from the Goulburn, two from Kilmore, one from Euston, six from the Terricks, four from the Murray, Mansfield way; two from the Upper Murray, one from Queensland, one from the Hopkins, one from Jim Crow, one from Echuca.
11. How many of them are over 40 years of age?—I should think not more than four men and two women.
12. How many of them are employed on the station?—All the men are employed, with the exception of three invalids.
13. Can you give us the number under fifteen?—Twenty-five under fifteen.
14. Boys and girls?—Boys only.
15. How do you pay those who work?—They are found in everything but meat; and for single men, if they are found in meat, the pay is 2½d. an hour for eight hours a day, and 2¾d. if meat is not found. A married man, with a wife and no children, has 2¾d. an hour and meat found, or 3¼d. if meat is found. For every child over ten a halfpenny an hour is added, and for every child under ten and over two a farthing an hour is added; so that a single man, working eight hours a day five days a week, can earn 9s. 2d., everything being found him but meat.
16. What kind of work are they generally at?—Generally at the hop grounds.
17. Have they work at the hop grounds all the year round?—The interim is occupied in farm work, fencing, felling timber, and so on.
18. Are they good workers as a rule?—They are not.
19. Is that owing to the want of knowledge of what they are asked to do, or is it laziness?—In the pure aboriginals, I think it is the absence of a sense of duty to work; in the half-castes, I think it is indolence.
20. Which of the two are the most useful, the pure blacks or the half-castes?—The pure blacks, if in health, are more useful.
21. Which of the two are the more easily controlled?—The pure blacks.
22. Are they given to disturbances?—When I first came to the station, there were almost nightly disturbances.
23. It is not so much so now?—There has not been any case for the last twelve months.
24. Have you had to call in the aid of the police at any time?—I had in the early part of my time here, not within the last twelve months.
25. Do you find them contented on the station?—Discontent is a chronic disease at Coranderrk.
26. What do they want—do they want to go away, or any other treatment?—They appear to be dissatisfied at everything that is done. It is not an uncommon thing for men to come in the middle of the week and demand a fresh supply of rations, a refusal of which calls forth their anger and a threat to report me to the Board.
27. Have they ever reported you to the Board?—Yes, they waited in deputations upon the Chief Secretary.
28. Upon the Aboriginal Board?—No, they have not; they threatened to do so.

The Rev.
F. P. Strickland,
29th Sept. 1881.

The Rev.
F. P. Strickland,
continued,
29th Sept. 1881.

29. Are you aware that they reported you to the Chief Secretary?—Yes.
30. Do they ever get the extra rations?—They do not; they may get a little if they show they are really hard up. For instance, perhaps they will come on the Wednesday or Thursday and say they have eaten all the sugar, and they get a little.
31. In your own judgment, do you think they get enough?—I think they get quite sufficient. Here is a man, for instance, who came a fortnight ago and threatened he would leave the station; he has a wife and five children; he had eleven pounds of sugar on the Saturday morning. He came on Wednesday and asked for a fresh supply, and a little was given to him.
32. How long was that eleven pounds supposed to last him?—A week.
33. You serve out the rations on the Saturday?—Yes, every Saturday.
34. They complain more of the want of sugar than anything else?—And tobacco. A little sugar was given to him, and he came next morning and demanded more.
35. You have alluded to one—is that the rule amongst them?—The foremost amongst them is "Punch," or Bamfield.
36. Do you attribute the discontent to anything?—I think it is materially fomented by outside influence.
37. Do they complain of not having sufficient clothing?—Not to my knowledge.
38. It was reported that they went to the Chief Secretary and complained that they had nothing, that they had to borrow clothes before they could put in an appearance in Melbourne—is that correct?—Certainly not, because they went the week the new blankets had been issued to them; they are well clothed at all times.
39. You say they work five days in the week—what do they do on the other day?—They go hunting if they please.
40. Do any of them go sheep-shearing?—Two were away last year by permission.
41. Do you give them permission or have they to get permission from the Board?—From the Board. I report that they wish to go, and if the Board approve of it they get leave.
42. Do they wear flannels?—They do.
43. Every one?—They have them served out to them; I cannot say whether they wear them.
44. (*To Mrs. Strickland.*)—How often is the flannel served out?—There is a yearly distribution of the flannel in the middle of the winter; and then when they come and say they want any more they have it, if it is in the store, and, if it is not, Mr. Strickland reports to the Board, and if they have not exceeded the usual quantity they get it.
45. (*To Mr. Strickland.*)—Does the same thing apply to other clothing when they wear out—supposing they wear out before the time arrives for allotment, do you serve them out?—At any time when there is need of it they invariably get it. In the case of "Punch," I may mention that the clothes are sent up to fit men of ordinary size, and there is never any sufficiently bulky to fit him, and that has led to some complaining; and I have had to write and send his measurement, and that has delayed it for a week or two. Last year he had two pairs. Only last Saturday I had another pair sent up for him. That is the only case where there has been immediate supply for immediate wants.
46. How is the state of health since you came?—In the early part of my time there was a great deal of sickness and many deaths, but of late it has been very much improved. Two have died this year, one in Melbourne and one on the station.
47. How often does a medical man visit the station?—When he is sent for.
48. He does not come regularly?—No.
49. Is it Dr. Elms?—Yes.
50. How many children are attending the school now?—Over forty; there are some white children attending.
51. When does the year end for reporting?—The financial year—June.
52. Do you count from the 1st July of the previous year?—From June to June.
53. Did you send your report last year?—I did.
54. How many births were there?—Up to the last report there were three—two half-castes and one black.
55. Are all the children legitimate?—Yes.
56. The total number is decreasing?—Yes.
57. Last year 102, this year 94?—Yes; that may be accounted for by the fact that they are sometimes of a migratory character.
58. Do they get drunk?—They have not lately—in the last twelve months. Up to within that time there were many cases. I have not known any case—it has not reached my ears.
59. Have any of them been brought before the court by the police during the last twelve months?—Not one.
60. It was a frequent occurrence before?—It was.
61. To what do you attribute their sobriety?—I think it may be attributed to decided action when I first came amongst them, that anyone violating the rule was brought before the magistrate. I think it is the fear of punishment.
62. What is your opinion of the climate?—I think there is no second question about the coldness of the climate, it is so damp.
63. Are there more complaining or more ill during the winter than the summer?—Yes.
64. Do those who are ill during the winter recover in the summer, as a rule?—Those who have been ill in the winter never thoroughly recover.
65. Are they worse in the winter?—Worse in the winter, by far.
66. They suffer from lung disease more than any other?—Yes.
67. During the last three years have you noticed if the deaths have been most occasioned by lung disease?—Yes, most decidedly.
68. Is everyone on the station supposed to wear flannel inside?—Yes.
69. Young and old?—Not the young.
70. At what age do they begin to wear it?—The house children do not wear flannel. They are kept from remaining out in the rain.

71. At what age do the house children begin to wear flannels?—When they are asked for. They have them, as babies, two or three years old. The Rev.
F. P. Strickland,
continued,
29th Sept. 1881.
72. Are they in the habit of throwing them off when they are once worn?—No; one did it, and it caused his death.
73. How is the state of the health of the blacks now?—At this time not strong—the pure blacks. They are not well at this time—any of the blacks on the station.
74. What stock have you got on the station?—There are at this time (at the last mustering, which was some time ago) 296 head.
75. Not so many as in 1879—there were 346 then?—No.
76. What was the decrease owing to?—In the year referred to there were a number killed, and there were something like thirty found distributed about the station, dead.
77. From poverty or disease?—Poverty.
78. Do you supply the station with meat out of the cattle?—We do when there is anything fit to be killed.
79. As a rule does it keep the station going?—It does not.
80. Can you tell us how many you have killed and the average weight of those killed during the last twelve months?—There were forty-eight killed in 1880.
81. You mean during the current year from June to June?—Yes. We frequently killed two in the week, but it was really a pity to kill them, they were so thin. We killed them until the people refused to take the beef to eat it.
82. Would the station graze more than that?—It would if it was fenced.
83. Is it not fenced?—It is not.
84. Is not the lower part fenced?—Yes, but there are four miles and a half unfenced.
85. Is that the whole of the unfenced line four miles and a half?—Yes.
86. That would close it all in?—Yes.
87. How many horses have you got?—Five heavy horses and five hacks.
88. Are all those cattle and horses belonging to the station or to the blacks?—The horses that I speak of belong to the station, but many of the men have horses of their own.
89. Have any of the men got cattle besides those?—Those belong to the station, but there are men on the station who have cattle. There is William Barak, he says he has had some, but we do not know where they are.
90. Are they allowed to keep a cow if they choose?—They are.
91. And a horse?—Yes.
92. Are not some keeping several horses?—Punch has several.
93. Is the number limited; can he keep as many as he likes?—No. He has had three or four. He sold one for £16.
94. How many acres have you under hops?—Twenty acres.
95. You have not increased it during the last year or two?—No.
96. Are there any under other cultivation?—Twenty-five under hay crop.
97. On the Yarra?—Along those flats.
98. Any potatoes?—Yes.
99. Are you able to grow sufficient potatoes on the station?—We are not since I have been here. One season they failed all round the neighborhood, but the station is supplied liberally by the Government from time to time.
100. Have you grown any potatoes last year?—We did not grow any. They were put in but failed in consequence of too much wet.
101. Is it from an overflow of the Badger or the Yarra?—Not from overflow. It is an incessant rain.
102. Who is the manager of the farm?—Thomas Harris.
103. Is the hop ground under his control?—Entirely.
104. You do not interfere with the mode of working?—I do not.
105. You are responsible for the crop after it is taken off?—Yes.
106. You have charge of the hops and any other crop?—I have. He is the working overseer.
107. Is the hop return as good as in former years?—It is not. Last year our crop was the heaviest in the neighborhood, but was not so heavy as in the preceding year.
108. To what do you attribute the falling off?—The cause last year was the inclement season. There was a falling off in the whole neighborhood.
109. Is it not gradually falling off year by year?—I think it is. I think if it was under white labor it would be an increase, but under the present labor there will be a decrease.
110. Do not the blacks do as they are told?—They do not. The blacks do, but the half-castes do not. I should be reluctant to say too much, but a case has occurred in the last month where a half-caste was ordered to get a piece of ground ready to put potatoes in. He said, "I will do nothing of the kind, unless I am paid the full price a white man is paid." I said, "You are told to do it." He said, "I will not do it."
111. You have not tried piece work?—No it has never been tried.
112. Except in picking hops?—Yes.
113. There are not enough blacks here to pick the hops?—No.
114. Do you find that introducing all sorts of men from town is injurious to the blacks?—From the experience of three years, I have preferred to have white people if possible; but I think the Chinese are far preferable.
115. Do you think it is injurious to the well-conduct of the people?—I think not.
116. As far as the morality of the place is concerned, how do you account for all those births?—I think the half-castes are far more prolific than the blacks.
117. Are those half-caste children born from half-castes?—They are. I do not believe there is a child born on the station except of its own legitimate parents. I believe they are all honorable births.
118. Are there any single unmarried women who have had children since you have been on the station?—Not one.

The Rev.
F. P. Strickland,
continued.
29th Sept. 1881.

119. Do they marry young, as a rule?—There have been a few young people married since I came.
120. In the summer time are they inclined to go away from the station?—Yes, they are, very much.
121. They are not prisoners. It is their nature to wander.
122. Is the pure black more inclined that way than the half-castes?—Yes, decidedly so. It is a part of their constitution.
123. Do you think it is of any use giving the children a high education?—I think it has proved detrimental rather than beneficial. The correspondence that goes on among those children with outside influence is something painful.
124. What good will that instruction do them. Are they allowed to go to service?—No.
125. Have you rules against allowing the half-castes to go to service?—The rule of the Board. They can be obtained by application, but they are not allowed to wander off.
126. Supposing any one applied for a boy or a girl, could you hire them out to them?—There are conditions by which they may be hired out.
127. The Royal Commission recommended that under certain regulations?—They did. Complaints have been made that there is no religious service. I hold service regularly morning and evening every Sunday; Sunday school is well attended.
128. Do they attend well at those services?—They do not. There is a service every evening through the week except Saturday.
129. You do not compel them to attend?—No.
130. Have any of them any idea of what religion is?—I fear not.
131. Do the children who sing in the school attend the service?—They always come regularly—we have command over them, but the adults do not come.
132. Is there any allowance made for the boy that does not smoke as against the boy that does?—No; all the men smoke except one.
133. There is no inducement held out for them not to smoke?—No.
134. Do you get milk from your own cows?—We do, but not all the year round; but, generally speaking, it is supplied. If there is a good number of cows available a family gets a cow to itself.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Harris examined.

Thomas Harris,
29th Sept. 1881.

135. You are working manager of this station?—Yes.
136. How long have you been here?—Eighteen years; since the station was commenced.
137. You commenced with the station?—Yes.
138. Do you think the aboriginals are as healthy now as they were then?—I do not see any difference.
139. Are there more half-castes now than then?—More have come from different parts.
140. Are there many of the original Yarra tribe on the station?—Only William Barak.
141. Any women?—I don't think so, except Mrs. Briggs.
142. Are the blacks as easily managed now as they were then?—I see but very little difference.
143. Can you get as much work from them now as you could at first?—No, they grumble about their meat. In those days they started to work at nine o'clock and worked till half-past four, but they go to work now at eight and work till five, with an hour for dinner and half an hour for smoking out of that.
144. Do they get as much allowance as they did in former years?—Yes; I do not see any difference.
145. Is it your opinion that they have any real reason for complaining?—I hear but very little grumbling about the food except the meat; that is the only thing they grumble to me about.
146. Is it not as good as it used to be?—They get a small wage now, and have to find the meat out of the wages; and a man who has seven in a family cannot make his money run out.
147. Do the single men get as much as the married ones?—No, I think there is some allowance.
148. Are they as well clothed now as they were in former times?—Yes, I think so.
149. Is it your opinion that they get enough?—Sometimes they come and grumble.
150. Is it your own opinion?—The clothes they should get in summer they get in winter.
151. Do they work amongst the hop ground with you?—Yes.
152. Do they rebel against your orders?—No. There was one rebelled the other day; he was a half- caste.
153. They are worse than the blacks to manage?—Yes. He was the ploughman.
154. What was his objection?—He wanted to get higher wages than the others. He said he did not see why he should do the ploughing and receive the same as the others were getting.
155. What wages does he get?—I put down the number of hours he works.
156. When he is working with the horses is he paid the same pay?—Yes.
157. They do not get anything extra for skilled labor; supposing any did a little carpentering?—William Parker is very handy with his tools.
158. Does he get anything extra?—No; he was working with a man from Melbourne.
159. Do you get as much work out of them as you would out of a white man?—No.
160. Not even the half-castes?—No.
161. Do they do their work as well?—They do it as well what they do, but they want spells.
162. Do they grub?—No grubbing has been done since Mr. Green left, with the exception of the road.
163. Do they fence?—They can fence. William Parker is a very good fencer.
164. Do you get as good crops of hops now as you did?—No, this last year we did not.
165. Is it a gradual falling off?—Last year it was a bad season.
166. Then it is not a gradual falling off?—No.
167. Was it a good crop the year before last?—Yes.
168. Was the failure last year owing to the season?—It was too wet. It was such a wet winter.
169. You can trust those men to work the hops properly?—I would never allow them to plough. That is where the hops were ruined three years ago. The ground was ploughed so deep that the plough cut the roots; he ploughed it seven inches deep.

169. Have you not the management of the working?—No, not in the hop garden until Mr. Halliday could not do anything with the men he had in charge, and had to get men. Edgar was the man in charge, and the men rebelled against him. Thomas Harris,
continued,
29th Sept. 1881.

170. Does that unskilful ploughing decrease the yield of hops?—(*The witness explained the manner in which the hops were injured by the plough.*)

171. Would that follow as an injury the second year?—Yes; we had to put fresh sets in; about 700 new sets last year were put in. They die away.

172. That will hardly account for the failure?—Partly, and the wet.

173. You got the whole control of the hop garden?—Yes.

174. And the farming too?—I had no instructions since I took charge of any sort.

175. You are left to your own judgment?—I am left to my own judgment.

176. Can you sell part of the crops?—Not a thing. I never sold a thing without sending up to the Superintendent. I prepare hop sets, and tell Mr. Strickland what the party has ordered, and he receives what is paid for them. If I was getting them for myself I would tell Mr. Strickland.

177. Are the blacks more discontented than they used to be?—In certain senses.

178. What sense?—They grumble because Mr. Strickland will not come down to see them and speak to them when they are at work. Mr. Halliday used to come down perhaps four times a day.

179. They like encouragement?—Yes. That is one of the greatest faults we have in the place, his not coming in among them sometimes.

180. Is he harsh with them?—No, not that I ever heard of.

181. Is he too strict with them?—No, I think he is the other way if anything.

182. Has he no sympathy with them?—He keeps a distance and will not come where they are.

183. He does not pretend to know anything about the blacks, and will not?—In one way he does.

184. Have they any other complaint against him?—I do not know what complaints they have themselves—not from me.

185. Do they complain to you of Mr. Strickland?—Not for a long time. They used to tell me that certain parties could come and get things more than those who did work.

186. Was that the truth?—I think it was in some cases.

187. They complained one of another for getting more than they were entitled to?—That those who went and played the truant got more than the ones who stopped at work.

188. How long is that ago?—I suppose six or seven months.

189. How are you supplied with horses and bullocks for working the place?—We have bullocks. I have five working horses that I have charge of.

190. Have you sufficient to work the place to make it pay?—Yes. I could make two teams of bullocks.

191. You have got five working horses?—Yes.

192. What do you do with them?—There are two generally in the hop garden.

193. All the year round?—Not all the year round. In June and July, ploughing and carting manure in the thirty acres of hop, and now to-morrow, I will commence ploughing for the poling again, then the scarifier will be going up to Christmas; one horse generally is used for wood and two for ploughing. There is plenty of work for five horses, but they can do it.

194. Do you think the blacks get enough clothing?—I think they do now. They have had abundance lately.

195. What do you mean by "lately"?—During the last month.

196. Had they reason to complain say six months or twelve months ago?—They did complain about the children being badly clothed about that time. The men got clothes but there was none sent for the children.

197. Would that be the fault of the manager or the fault of the Board?—The fault of the Board I should say. Mr. Strickland has told me he has written for things and never got them.

198. Do you think they are as healthy as they used to be ten years ago?—I think they are. There have been a good many who have had colds and coughs, but so have the white people. There is another thing that is very bad for their health—sleeping by the fire at night and going out into the cold air in the morning.

199. Has not that been the habit always?—Not when Mr. Green was here. He would not have it. He used to go and see there was not a fire.

200. Have not all the huts bedsteads?—They have, but they shift them, and shift the mattresses to the front of the fire.

201. They require looking after every night?—Yes, I have heard Mr. Green say he knew it was not good for their health.

202. Do they keep a larger fire on than they would outside in the bush?—They keep a larger fire at night than they do at day.

203. Who supplies the wood?—They cut it for themselves and get the horse and cart to cart it.

204. That is reckoned in their work?—No, they get nothing for that.

205. They have to do that in spare time?—Yes.

206. Supposing one of them has a large family, none of them grown up, he works from eight to five, when is he to cut wood for himself?—He might take a day. Those men that have large families generally take Friday, and that day is not put down to them.

207. Is the station paying as well now as it was?—No.

208. To what do you attribute the deficiency or the falling off?—The increase of the cattle has fallen off; the last year Mr. Halliday was here we had forty-seven head killed; that is about the increase. Last muster he was at there was 446. In that year that he left I think forty-three or forty-four were killed, that took all the increase. Next winter was a severe winter, over thirty we found dead in the bush. Since that the increase has not been so heavy and the meat has to be found.

209. If the station was fenced off do you think it would supply itself in meat?—Far more.

210. The place is overrun with strange cattle and horses?—Horses are brought here from Kew and turned out.

Thomas Harris,
continued.
23th Sept. 1881.

211. Do they ever complain of the strangers grazing—eating their grass?—Yes, they often complain to me, and tell me I ought to pound, but it is no use pounding them.
212. Do they ever suggest fencing?—What with the hops and so many away shearing, I did not know which way to turn last year. There have been none away this year.
213. Do you think if you had the whole management you could make it pay?—I am sure the place would pay.
214. Why will it not pay now?—Those cattle come in, and if we turn them out they come in again to-morrow.
215. Are there more strange cattle running on the station now than there used to be?—Yes, far more. They used to be pounded before.
216. Why do you not pound them now?—The fee is nothing. You would knock three or four horses up, and the people would just laugh at you.
217. Where do they come from?—From the Healesville side of the common. There is Kelly, he has a few milking cows. He has taken up a large paddock at the back.
218. Who brings them up from Kew?—Some of the bus drivers.
219. Are horses as bad to get in as the cattle?—Not so bad as the cattle. There are a good many horses here now.
220. Have you reported to Mr. Strickland about the trespassers?—Mr. Strickland comes to me and says he does not see the use of turning them out when they come in again to-morrow.
221. Has any complaint been made to Captain Page?—I got him to put up notices on the trees.
222. How long is it since they have been put up?—It is over a twelvemonth since I asked for them. They have only been up about two months.
223. No one has given information and claimed the £5?—No. Two parties were seen cutting the fence down, but the people were frightened to tell.
224. Do the aborigines complain more now than they did during Mr. Halliday's time here?—Yes. There is more grumbling amongst themselves.
225. Do they drink as much as they did two or three years ago?—They have done until now—there is not much now.
226. They have not been strictly sober during the last twelve months?—This last four months I do not think there has been any drinking on the place. There may have been off the place.
227. Were they before the court lately—during the last twelve months?—I could not say positively. I do not think they have. I hardly think it is a twelvemonth since Mr. Cameron was pulled for giving the blacks drink.
228. Since then you have not seen any drunkenness on the place?—No.
229. Do many people come about the station?—Not that I am aware of.
230. There are not many visitors?—No, not for a good while.
231. Do the females go away to the township?—Not to the townships. They go down fishing to the Yarra.
232. What state is the morality of the place?—It is pretty good just now. In fact I never see any difference in the people. I never see any white people coming about.
233. You do not think anyone comes about—do you think any one of the children born during the last twelve months belonged to anyone but the husbands of the women?—I do not think so. There was something said by some party from Melbourne about Robert Wandon's child—that one is fair.
234. Fairer than the half-castes as a rule?—Not much fairer; and then one other of his children—one that is dead—was the fairest one that ever was on the place. His wife is more like a white women than anything else.
235. Was she born here?—No; at Echuca.
236. Wandon was born on the Yarra?—Yes.
237. Who is the leader amongst them?—Barak.
238. Do they call him the king?—Yes.
239. Does this "Punch" complain?—Yes, he has complained formerly. He does not complain so much to me now. I do not know what he does to his friends outside.
240. What part is he native of?—Wangaratta, I think.
241. Do you know how long he has been here?—Very soon after the station was commenced.
242. Is he married?—Yes.
243. Do you think they are properly looked after in the underclothing—do they ever want flannel?—Yes, I think they want flannel sometimes—[*The witness handed in a copy of his instructions when he took charge of the hop garden.*]
244. Do you think if they were properly clothed there would be so much sickness?—I do not think there would. Sometimes they have too much clothing, and other times they have not enough.
245. Have they ever complained about wanting flannel?—They have often complained.
246. Do they waste it when they get them?—I have known them go and ask Dr. Elms for flannel. I did not see they took as good care of it as they would if they had to pay for it themselves.
247. At what age are they supposed to have flannel?—I could not say.
248. Does Punch work on the place?—Since Captain Page gave him the letter about a month ago. He did not work much before. He finds out on pay-day a £2 bill comes in from the butcher, and he has only got 35s. to pay it with, and he is in the back-ground.
249. Is there anything wrong with him?—He does not complain; he has had this cold, like all the rest. He is a shearer.

The witness withdrew.

Tommy Michie, aboriginal, examined.

Tommy Michie,
29th Sept. 1881.

250. *By the Board.*—Where do you come from?—Benalla.
251. How long have you been here?—Fifteen years about.
252. Are you married?—Yes.
253. How many children have you got?—Three alive, three dead.

254. Have you got a good house?—Yes.
 255. The best cottage over there?—Yes.
 256. Have you got a garden?—Yes.
 257. Have you got any cattle—any cows?—Only horses now.
 258. How many horses?—Four.
 259. Are they all riding horses?—Some draught and a riding horse.
 260. Where do you get your milk?—I get the milk from the house. Mr. Strickland keeps it.
 261. Do not you get milk for your tea?—No.
 262. Do any on the station get it?—Some do; only those that have children.
 263. Have they any cows of their own?—No.
 264. Do you work on the station?—Yes.
 265. Do you get good allowances of food?—Not very well.
 266. Not enough, or is it the quality?—We get enough rations—not meat.
 267. Do you get good quality of rations?—It is good.
 268. How is it you do not get enough meat?—We have got to buy it.
 269. Does not the station allow you any?—No; not since Mr. Green left; we have got to buy our meat.
 270. How do those that are not working get their meat?—The same.
 271. If they are not working they do not get pay?—Those are the old men; the Government supplies them.
 272. They make all those that come work?—Yes, we have got to buy our own meat.
 273. Do you complain of that, that it is not fair?—I do not think it is fair.
 274. You expect to be provided with everything?—With everything—all alike.
 275. Do you get clothing enough?—I do not get enough, myself—two pairs of trousers in the year, and two shirts.
 276. Do not get a coat at all?—No; we get a blue shirt as well.
 277. Do you get under flannel?—Yes, one.
 278. Supposing that one wears out, do you get a new one?—We cannot get any more till the time comes.
 279. What time of the year do you get the clothes?—I cannot tell you.
 280. Is it winter or summer?—The beginning of the winter.
 281. You would be perfectly satisfied if you got enough meat?—We would be satisfied if we had meat the same as we used to. We used to kill our own before.
 282. The whole station killing it?—The whole station supplying itself.
 283. You kill your own now occasionally?—No, we have to buy it. What we have got on the station we have to buy it the same as from the butcher.
 284. What you want is that you should not have to buy anything?—No.
 285. Do you think it is unfair to make the people on the station work?—With the number of people here they ought to make the station support itself.
 286. Would you like to see the people work on the station?—Yes.
 287. You would not object to work?—Yes, we all object to work.
 288. Supposing the Government supplies you with all the clothing you require, and beef; and if you got as much of everything as you required, you would not want wages for your work at all?—No.
 289. Would you work all the same then?—All the same as we used to do.
 290. You are not satisfied with the present management?—No.
 291. Will you be kind enough to tell the Board your objection—what complaints you have to make?—Mr. Strickland is not a fit man to work the station.
 292. Will you say in what respect—why is he not a fit man to superintend it?—He has made no improvements since he was in this place, such as looking over the run and the cattle—everything to make more grub and clothing.
 293. Anything else?—And we have got the run open. We have got everybody's cattle in—more than our own.
 294. Do not you do any fencing now?—No.
 295. Is he attentive to the people when they are sick?—Very seldom. We have to come down for him.
 296. Does he go when you ask him to?—Sometimes.
 297. Did he ever refuse visiting any of the sick?—Yes.
 298. How long ago?—Before this disturbance.
 299. When was that?—When we went down to town to the Chief Secretary.
 300. Who did he refuse to visit who was sick?—Willie Hamilton.
 301. Did he recover or die?—He is alive now.
 302. Tell us about the disturbance, and what was the cause of the disturbance?—The way we were living; badly treated.
 303. Just describe how you were treated?—We cannot get anything we want, butter or milk, or anything for sick people.
 304. Anything else?—And meat, we cannot get it.
 305. Was that all?—We have to run down here to get it.
 306. Do you get it when you send down for it?—Sometimes, not always.
 307. Then you want the meat—to cook it?—To cook it ourselves.
 308. Any way you like?—Any way we like.
 309. You mean to make soup for sick people?—Yes, or beef tea.
 310. It is not for your meals—do you get them regularly?—No.
 311. What was the matter with William Hamilton?—They were afraid of the scarlet fever, and Mr. Strickland never came near for a fortnight to see how they got on with the children.
 312. Did he not send for the doctor?—He sent for the doctor, but never came to see how we were getting on.
 313. Did the doctor come?—He came, but he was not a minute there.

Tommy Michie,
continued.
29th Sept. 1881.

314. Were there any more bad with the scarlet fever?—No, it was not scarlet fever at all; it was something like little pimples breaking out, with a head; I do not know what you would call it.

315. If you think of any grievance that you have to complain of just say so?—Since the station was started by Mr. Strickland there are no improvements to keep us quiet.

316. Does that mean he does not give you employment enough?—I mean he does not look over us to make the station support itself without buying anything.

317. Is it because he does not know better, or because he takes no interest in the work?—He does not understand how to manage the station.

318. If he knew how to do it, do you think he would do it?—He would do it the same as the first manager we had at the beginning.

319. I understood Mr. Harris was the working manager?—He only does the one work—hops. Some of our chaps do the ploughing.

320. He superintends?—Yes. Since the new management the only thing we have been working at is the hops. We grow no potatoes or vegetables for the use of the station. We ought to have more milk on the station.

321. Did you always work on the station?—Yes.

322. You have been working constantly?—Yes, since I have been in this station.

323. Fifteen years?—Yes. I worked for ten years for nothing, just to try to keep ourselves in the station. We had plenty then.

324. You were not paid wages then, and you got everything you wanted?—Yes.

325. What kind of improvements were you making at that time?—We were clearing and fencing more ground.

326. How much have you fenced?—I cannot tell you how many miles.

327. There is half the station unfenced yet?—We have not fenced the run yet.

328. Has any fencing at all been done since Mr. Strickland has been here?—No, only that bit in the orchard.

329. When were those bridges made—the three bridges made between this and the road?—This winter.

330. Who has been clearing the road?—We did.

331. When did you do that?—Last winter.

332. Then it is scarcely correct that you made no improvements lately?—Not to keep anything out.

333. No improvements that paid?—No.

334. Then would you be in favor of using white labor, taking people here to work instead of the blacks?—No, we could do it ourselves.

335. Would you like the manager to give the work to white men, and you to rest and only work as you liked, and get your meat and rations, but no wages—would you rather have the old system, getting board and clothes and no wages, rather than being paid for your work, and paying for the beef?—Yes.

336. Do you all work on the station now?—Yes.

337. Full time?—Yes.

338. And you get money for it?—Yes.

339. Is your work amongst the hops?—Yes.

340. Does it require your labor there all the year round?—It requires our labor there all the year round.

341. You could not be at anything else; you could not be fencing the station at the same time?—We could divide the people in half.

342. If there is employment enough there for the whole of you, how could you spare half to go fencing?—We can do that easy. We have got enough in the paddock to keep us all going.

343. How could you fence if all your time is employed on the hops?—We finish about this time; we have got nothing to do.

344. How long does the paddock take you; how many months in the year are you employed in the hop paddock?—About two months, what we are doing now.

345. How many months of the year would you have for fencing?—We can do it a little at a time.

346. Have you anything more to say?—I do not think so.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow, at Nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, 30TH SEPTEMBER 1881.

Present:

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair;

T. Armstrong, Esq., J.P.,

J. Kerr, Esq.,

G. De Pury, Esq.

The aboriginal Tommy Michie, *alias* "Punch," handed in the following letter:—"I report this matter for the welfare of the station. The station has never been improved since the old manager left. No clearing or grubbing done; no potatoes, cabbages, or other vegetables have been grown, and no fencing done since he left. Last time we mustered we counted 300 cattle and horses belonging to the township and cockatoo farmers. Nothing has been put in the orchard, and vegetables have not been grown for the good of our health. Mr. Green was very neighborly, and used to gather young men and women, and old people, and teach them like children, saving them from drinking and fighting; and every year he used to have a gathering. Mrs. Green was like a mother to all the natives, and was good to the women when they were confined, and she used to look after the sick. Under Mr. Green we used to kill our own cattle, and grow our own potatoes, cabbages, onions, carrots, and pumpkins—everything we could grow. We had plenty of milk, butter, and cheese. We get nothing like that now. Nothing has improved since the

manager took charge of the station. I do not know what he was put here for. He ought to look around the run and get it made into four or five paddocks for the spring, a paddock for weaners, and a paddock for fat cattle, and kill our own cattle. Clearing and grubbing should be done. The manager is ruining the station. He is not doing his work, only riding about and breaking the Government buggy, and running horses. His daughter rides sore-backed horses; the matter was told to the police, and Captain Page stopped it. Why should not he be fined as well as the poor natives? Why should they take advantage of a poor black because he cannot read and write? I think they have done enough in this country to ruin the natives without taking it from us any more. I went away up the country about the Goulburn for a holiday, and Mr. Strickland sold all my geese, and would not allow me to keep pigs. The pigs and geese kept me in everything I wanted. We can keep nothing. I did not get paid for the geese, and I expect a pound for the lot."

Tommy Michie further examined.

347. *By the Board.*—Who got up that deputation that waited on the Chief Secretary?—We got it up ourselves. Tommy Michie, 30th Sept. 1881.

348. No one tried to agitate on the question?—No.

349. No one has tried to make you dissatisfied with the management of the place?—No.

The witness withdrew.

William Barak, aboriginal, examined.

350. *By the Board.*—You were born on the Yarra?—Yes.

351. What part?—Yarra Flat.

352. How old are you?—I do not know.

353. It was a wild country when you were born?—Yes.

354. You have been on this station ever since the station was established?—Yes.

355. You have never been up the country?—No.

356. Have you to work now?—I am not able to work now.

357. You are too old to work now?—Yes.

358. Do they allow you enough clothing to keep you warm?—Yes; every year.

359. How many pairs of trousers do you get?—One.

360. When did you get the last pair?—The last trousers last year.

361. Where did you get those you have on?—Mrs. Bon's boy.

362. Do you get enough shirts—the blue shirts?—I get them the same as the trousers.

363. Do you get undershirts?—Yes; I have got a flannel.

364. How many of them do you get?—I have got only one.

365. Is that worn out before you get the next?—It takes a long time for that.

366. Have you to go without one sometimes during the year before you get another one?—Sometimes I go without when they are broken.

367. Do you ever ask for another when one breaks away?—No, I do not want to ask him again.

368. Not till the end of the year?—Yes.

369. Do you get enough to eat?—Yes. It is very short towards the end of the week.

370. What runs short—the flour or bread, or what?—The flour and sugar.

371. You get plenty of beef?—I get Government meat.

372. As much as you want to eat?—We are out sometimes.

373. Do you apply for more when you are out?—We beg outside; people ask from one another.

374. You do not come to Mr. Strickland for more?—No.

375. Do you get all alike?—No.

376. Who gets the most, the young people or the old people?—Those that have children get most.

377. Have you any children?—They died not very long ago in Melbourne.

378. Is Mr. Strickland kind to you?—Sometimes, not always.

379. Does he speak cross, or how do you make out that he is unkind?—One time I was very lame, and I wanted to get the horse and cart, and Mr. Strickland came up in a very rough way, and said, "Do you know that horse is working all day." And I asked him, "Can't you let me have it to draw a little bit of wood?" He said, "No; he is working all day."

380. Does Mr. Strickland visit you when you are ill?—Yes.

381. Does Mrs. Strickland visit the women when they are ill?—No.

382. How long is it since your wife died?—Two months.

383. Did Mrs. Strickland visit her when she was ill?—She brought her some greasy soup.

384. Did she bring it herself to your wife?—No; one of the black girls.

385. Did Mrs. Strickland ever call and see your wife when she was ill?—Sometimes.

386. Did you attend in town that time to see Mr. Berry when the row took place?—Yes.

387. What did you complain of then?—About the breaking up of the station.

388. Did you complain then that Mr. Strickland was not kind to you?—When we got down that time we did not ask about Mr. Strickland, we asked about Mr. Green.

389. To be manager over the place again?—Yes.

390. You did not want Mr. Strickland to remain as manager?—We did not ask for that.

391. Do you want to send Mr. Strickland away?—Yes, we want him to go away.

392. Tell us all you want?—He does not grow any potatoes, or oats, or cabbage.

393. Is there plenty of work here all the year round for the men in the hop paddock?—Yes.

394. All the men?—All the men.

395. Are the men ever idle—do you ever run out of work?—No.

396. Always doing something?—Yes.

397. No time to fence?—No, they cannot do anything—no order—they let the cattle come in belonging to other people. The place is not fenced.

398. Would you like the Government to give you all the food you want, and all the clothing, and no work?—If they had everything right and the Government leave us here, give us this ground and let

William Barak, us manage here and get all the money. Why do not the people do it themselves—do what they like, and *continued*, go on and do the work.
30th Sept. 1881.

399. Is it true that the men have not been paid for four months?—No, only this time—every two months they get paid.

The witness withdrew.

Martin Simpson, aboriginal, examined.

Martin Simpson,
30th Sept. 1881.

400. *By the Board.*—How old are you?—I have no idea.

401. Where were you born?—Jim Crow.

402. How long have you been here?—I could not say.

403. Who was manager of the station when you came?—Mr. Green.

404. Were you here many years before Mr. Green left?—I think I was here about ten years before Mr. Green left.

405. Was the station long established before you arrived?—No—not much cultivation—there was only two huts here.

406. The present Board are here to hear any complaints that you have got against the management, and the treatment you have received. Tell everything you have got to say against the mode of treatment. We came to see that the blacks get justice. Do you get enough to eat?—Not so far as meat goes.

407. Do you get enough of everything else?—And clothing.

408. Keep to what you eat first?—Our rations run short before the end of the week sometimes.

409. Then you do not get enough?—No.

410. How often during the week is it given to you?—On Saturday, once a week.

411. How many days does it last?—It will last up till Friday.

412. What do you have from Friday till Saturday?—We have nothing.

413. Have you sometimes to go without your dinner and supper on Friday, and your breakfast on Saturday?—We have to go and borrow bread of our neighbors.

414. Your neighbors are not short if they can lend you some?—Some of them can spare a little more than others.

415. Have you any idea how much each gets?—No, I do not know.

416. Are you married?—Yes.

417. How many children have you got?—I have no children.

418. Does your wife get as much as you get?—Yes.

419. Do you often run short before the end of the week?—Yes, often.

420. Do many others run short before the week is out?—Yes.

421. You work on the place?—Yes.

422. Do you get vegetables?—No.

423. Are you allowed to grow any yourself?—I have not got a garden.

424. Are you allowed to make a garden?—Yes, we are allowed.

425. You have only just come back?—Yes.

426. Where were you?—Down on the Murray.

427. How long were you away?—A little more than twelve months.

428. Was your wife with you?—Yes.

429. What made you go away?—I was sent away.

430. Who ordered you away?—Captain Page.

431. Why—had you been misbehaving?—We had some words in the hop paddock.

432. Some of the other men and you?—Yes.

433. Who was it?—It was Captain Page himself.

434. What was the cause of it—why did you fall out?—I went out fishing one day, on a Tuesday, upon the Yarra, and came back again, and got my rations stopped. I had not enough meat to keep me on, so I went fishing. I asked, "What for?" And they told me that I was away fishing, and not working; and I told him, if I could not get enough here, I must go and catch some fish for myself.

435. And then you did go?—Yes; I went and got some fish, and came back again, and got my rations stopped for it; and they said, if I did not go to work my services would no more be required on the place. He said I was to go away from the place, so he sent me away.

436. You were away twelve months?—Yes.

437. How did you come back?—I walked back.

438. Without being sent for?—Yes.

439. Did they refuse to take you in when you came back?—No.

440. Were you on a station there?—It was a kind of mission station, on the other side of the Murray.

441. How long were you there?—All the time.

442. What kind of treatment did you receive there?—You had to buy everything you wanted.

443. You had to work?—Work and buy everything you wanted.

444. Could you get constant employment there?—Not about the station, because there are so many old hands there that would be taken on without taking strangers on.

445. You could not keep yourself in clothes and rations?—If you were working on a squatter's station.

446. Did you work on a station?—Yes; on Mr. MacBain's station.

447. Did you earn enough money to keep yourself and wife in food and clothing?—Yes.

448. Were you better off there than here?—Yes. If I could get employment all the time to keep me on I was better off.

449. You could not get constant employment?—No.

450. That is the reason you came back?—Yes.

451. Can you shear?—No.

452. Are the blacks at the other station allowed to go out to work?—Yes.

453. Are they allowed here?—No; not without they get orders from Captain Page.

454. Did you apply ; do you know anyone who applied to Captain Page and was refused permission to go and work outside ?—No ; I do not know of any.
455. Were you one that went down on the deputation to Mr. Berry ?—Not this last time. I was not here then.
456. Do you think you could earn more if you were working by the piece than the way you are paid now ?—I could not say.
457. Would you rather work by piece work ?—What would you call piece work ?
458. Put up so much fence for so much money, or hoe so much hops for so much ?—I would sooner have it by the week.
459. Are you working by the week ?—Yes.
460. And how much do you earn now—how much do you get a week ?—I could not say how much we are getting. I have not heard what we are getting.
461. How long is it since you began to work since your arrival from the Murray ?—I came back here in the latter end of July. I have been working since.
462. Have you been paid since ?—No.
463. Do you know when you should be paid ?—No.
464. How often are the men on the station paid ?—Every two months.
465. Supposing that you earn twelve shillings, what have you to do with this twelve shillings ?—We have to pay for our meat.
466. Only the meat ?—Yes.
467. All that you have to do with the money is to buy meat ?—Yes.
468. Do you get plenty of clothing ?—I have not got sufficient clothing for myself since I came back from the Murray.
469. Used you to get enough when you were here before ?—Not since Mr. Strickland was here.
470. Not so much as before ?—No.
471. How many pairs of trousers do you get ?—I have got one pair.
472. How many used you to get in a year ?—Only one pair of trousers and a pair of bluchers, a blue shirt and hat, and a flannel.
473. Do you get a crimean shirt ?—No.
474. Does any one on the station get it ?—No.
475. All flannels ?—All flannels and cotton shirts.
476. What do you do after you wear out the one pair of trousers—do you go without ?—We have to do without till the next supply comes.
477. Have you to go naked ?—We have to do the best we can. We have to buy with what money we have.
478. Have you often to buy clothes with your own money ?—Yes, often.
479. You had to do that when Mr. Green was here, too ?—I do not remember.
480. Does he not supply you with clothes twice a year ?—No.
481. Every six months ?—No.
482. Supposing that one of your own men came here, and told us that they distribute clothing twice a year, and that they get double what you say they get, would he be telling the truth ?—No, he would not.
483. What kind of work are you at generally ?—Generally in the hop paddock.
484. Are they at work in the hop paddock all the year round ?—Yes.
485. What have you been doing lately ?—Pruning.
486. Can you plough ?—Yes.
487. Have you been ploughing in the hop ground ?—No.
488. Can you fence ?—Yes.
489. Are the men working in the hop ground employed as a rule all the year round ?—Yes, they are always in the hop paddock.
490. You need not be idle any day if you like to work ?—No.
491. There is plenty of employment ?—There is plenty of employment.
492. You would not have time to erect any fencing ?—Yes ; we would have time, because we have men enough to spare.
493. You say the men have constant employment all the year round without fencing—how could they spare time to go and fence if it takes all your time in the hop paddock ?—There is more men than enough. They do not all work in the hop paddock.
494. What do the others do ?—Ploughing, and work on the farm.
495. Does Mr. Harris find work for all the men every morning ?—Yes.
496. He sets them all to something ?—Yes.
497. Is he sufficient to lead you—are you perfectly satisfied with his management ?—Yes.
498. You think he understands his work ?—Yes, I think he does.
499. You have full confidence in him ?—Yes.
500. Does Mr. Strickland interfere with his work at all—does he attend the hop ground, and tell you you are doing right ?—No.
501. He does not interfere with your work at all ?—No.
502. It is left to Mr. Harris to say whether you do your work or not ?—Yes.
503. Have you ever been sick on the station ?—No.
504. Or your wife ?—No.
505. Does Mr. Strickland visit the sick ?—No ; I have never seen him.
506. Have you seen Mrs. Strickland go to visit the women ?—Yes ; she has been up there lately.
507. When the women are sick she goes ?—Yes.
508. Would you like to see them more among you ?—Yes.
509. You think they do not visit you enough ?—No, they do not ; they keep away.

The witness withdrew.

Martin Simpson,
continued,
10th Sept. 1881.

Alfred Morgan, aboriginal, examined.

Alfred Morgan,
30th Sept. 1881.

510. How old are you?—As near as I can tell, about twenty-eight.
 511. Where were you born?—Wharparilla.
 512. How long have you been here?—About sixteen years.
 513. Very shortly after the place was established?—Yes.
 514. Have you been here ever since?—I have been away for the good of my health. I have been away for about six or seven months.
 515. Where did you go?—I was up at Maloga.
 516. Is that a warmer climate?—Yes.
 517. It was too cold here?—I went up on account of my children. It did not seem to do them any good.
 518. You are a married man?—Yes.
 519. Is your wife living?—Yes.
 520. How many children have you?—I have four of my own, and three of Johnny Fergusson's—I married his widow.
 521. Have they any sickness?—They all are dead.
 522. Are your own children sick?—They have a cold sometimes.
 523. Was it from cold the others died?—I suppose when it was neglected it got into a lung complaint.
 524. Have you had a lung complaint?—Yes.
 525. Have you it now?—No.
 526. Are you in the habit of going away to improve your health when you get sick?—Only the once; and at other times I went away for work.
 527. Did you go shearing?—I went away on a station to pay my bills here.
 528. You got into debt here?—Yes.
 529. Accordingly you got plenty of employment?—Sometimes, not always.
 530. Then on the whole you can make better wages here than away?—Yes; by taking a little at a time, and not drawing too much meat.
 531. What wages do you make now?—For the last two months I have been paid £1 18s. 11d.
 532. When were you paid last?—Last week sometime we were paid.
 533. Do you know how much a week you get?—No.
 534. Do you work all the time?—We work in fine weather. We lose time to get wood. In wet weather we do not get any payments.
 535. Do you know that that is only six shillings and fourpence a week—have you to pay for the meat out of that?—Yes; I am in debt now—I am in debt £1 12s.
 536. Then you could not have been working all the time; in wet weather you do not get anything?—Mr. Harris would be able to tell you, because he has it all down in a book. He tells you when you are away.
 537. Where is he now?—He is at the township now.
 538. Do you get plenty of employment—are you always working?—Yes.
 539. Every day that you could do work you did?—Sometimes I am asked to go into the paddock, and at other times I go out to get wood.
 540. Are you paid for that?—No.
 541. If you could do work you can work every day?—Yes, and make shift for wood.
 542. Can you get work every day and get paid for it?—Yes, on the station.

Mr. Harris was called in.

543. (*To Mr. Harris.*)—Morgan informs us that during the last two months he only earned £1 18s. 11d., can you inform us why he did not earn more in the two months?—The wet weather.
 544. Has it been wet?—June and July.
 545. He says he was paid last week for the last two months?—That was for June and July.
 546. How long after the end of the second month do they get paid?—Sometimes it runs over a month. To-morrow, if they had not been paid this week, there would have been four months due—June, July, August, and September.
 547. Just tell us how many days Morgan worked during June and July?—[*Mr. Harris referred to a book*]—There was one wet week in June when Morgan did no work.
 548. Could they get sufficient firewood for themselves?—They did cut wood.
The Witness.—I have wood cut to this day from that time.
 549. (*To Mr. Harris.*)—Could they not have done station work during that time—could they not have fenced?—I put up some old fencing.
 550. They did work?—Some of them did. I gave them the option of working or cutting their own wood.
 551. What did the others do?—I had them with me.
 552. Supposing they had a fortnight or three weeks when they could not work, what do they do for meat?—They would lose.
 553. They would do without?—They would do without.
 554. Do you give them credit if they have not enough to buy meat—do you refuse them?—They get it from the butcher. In the wet time they go and hunt for kangaroos, bears, and opossums.
 555. Do you think paying them by the hour is a better plan than paying them by the week?—I think so much a week is the better. It is the Board that does this.
 556. How often is the clothing distributed in the year?—Supposed to be twice, I think.
 557. Is it?—I do not know when the clothes are served out. I know when they came, but I have not seen them served out.
 558. Do they go naked?—No.
 559. Your experience will tell you a man cannot make a pair of trousers last for twelve months?—No, he cannot.

560. Do they complain of not getting enough clothing?—They have to me.
561. You cannot say whether they get it once, twice, or three times a year?—I cannot. I am not here when the clothing is served out.
562. (*To the witness.*)—Do you get enough clothing?—I have trousers enough and shirts, but not flannel.
563. How often do you get trousers?—I have got two pairs this year.
564. Did you always get two?—I cannot recollect.
565. Did you buy those clothes you have on with your own money?—No, they are Government trousers.
566. How many of those shirts do you get?—Two.
567. How many flannels?—We are supposed to get two every year.
568. Do you get them?—I have got none this year—I got two last year.
569. What time do you get them?—I suppose for the winter.
570. Have you run out of flannels?—No.
571. Is it as good as ever?—Yes; but when I get wet, and the weather is not suitable for washing, I have to do without.
572. How is that when you have two?—I must have another shirt dirty, besides, this week I had the flannel off, and it is wet weather, and I cannot get it dry. If I am out working I might do with my shirt.
573. Do you get a coat?—No, only a blue shirt.
574. Does your wife get enough clothing?—I think so.
575. Does she complain?—She has lately. Till this enquiry was going to be on she asked Mrs. Strickland if she could get more. She has got it before. He refused, and said there was none up.
576. Do the children get enough?—No.
577. How old is the eldest child?—Seven years.
578. Does it wear flannel?—There is no flannel for it. We give it a sort of plaid.
579. Does the Government allow flannel up to the age of ten years?—I do not know. We do what we can ourselves.
580. Were you one that went down on that deputation?—Yes.
581. What was the reason for going down?—We heard that the station was going to be sold and shifted, and we did not want it, so we went down to see Mr. Berry. He said that he would see.
582. Have you any other complaints?—There were many more at the time.
583. Make your own statement?—My complaint is that Mr. Strickland is not a suitable man here.
584. Will you give your reasons for that?—He does not sympathize with us. He does not go amongst us. When he does he just passes through, makes himself quite a stranger. When we were at work on the road he passed by and never said as much as "good-day," and then my wife heard him say that he would not like to live here at all, because it was just like living in hell. He was repeating the words to some of the men in Healesville. I said "The things you stated in the court was not half so bad as you stated." He got me by the breast and was going to pull me in. I told him to take his hands off me.
585. How long ago was that?—I could not say. I think it was the last time there was anything from the station.
586. Was it twelve months ago?—No, not twelve months yet—yes, it must be twelve months.
587. Has there been any drunkenness on the station since then?—Not that I know of.
588. Has there been more drunkenness on the station during the last three years than there used to be?—Yes.
589. There has been none for twelve months?—There has been none for twelve months.
590. When did it all take place?—Since Mr. Strickland came here.
591. How long has he been here?—About three years.
592. Did all the disturbance and drunkenness take place previous to the twelve months?—I do not understand you.
593. Mr. Strickland has been here three years?—Yes.
594. You say there was nothing of the kind for twelve months?—To my recollection.
595. It must have all taken place before that?—Yes.
596. Do many visit the station?—I could not say. A few came here, but I could not say how many.
597. Do they interfere with your work?—No.
598. Whom do they speak to?—They just come round and look, and see what is going on.
599. Do they speak to the girls?—I could not say, because I am in the paddock, or working somewhere else.
600. Have you any reason to suppose that the girls go about with the young men?—Not that I know of.
601. You are not aware of any case?—No.
602. Do you think it is any injury to the station to be so near Healesville?—No, I do not think so.
603. Would you rather be nearer Healesville?—I would rather be here.
604. Would you rather be farther away?—I would sooner be here, because the land is cleared.
605. Would you rather Healesville was moved farther away, and you be here?—I do not suppose it would make any difference.
606. We want to know whether it is injurious to the station to be so near the white population?—Yes; I know what you mean.
607. Do the people from Healesville decoy the girls into the bush?—No; there has been nothing of the sort. If there has been any here we direct them either to Mr. Harris or Mr. Strickland.
608. You do not know of any girls running away with the young men?—No.
609. Do the young girls ever go down fishing along the river alone?—No; never without someone being with them.
610. Do the Misses Strickland associate with the girls?—Yes.
611. Are they kinder to the girls than Mr. Strickland is to the men?—I could not say. As far as I have seen of them they do go out right enough.

Alfred Morgan,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

612. One of your complaints is that Mr. Strickland does not sympathize with you—I want to know if the Misses Strickland sympathize with the black girls?—They are mostly down here; I do not know what they do. Another thing is the wheels that Mr. Strickland sold here, a pair of bullock-dray wheels. He sold them on the station unknown to anyone.

613. Whom did he sell to?—Mr. Holland.

614. Did they belong to the station?—Yes.

615. You do not know whether he had any authority?—No; that is what I heard.

616. Are you sure that he sold them?—I have good evidence of it.

617. Did you see it done?—I saw the wheels on Mr. Holland's bullock dray.

618. Were they lying about?—No; they were where the dray was broken.

619. Do you know they were sold?—It was from a party who is willing to come forward.

620. Is he on the station?—Mr. Harris had it from Mr. Holland's mouth, and Mr. Holland has the wheels to this day.

621. Nothing else?—We would like to have Mr. Green back.

622. You think Mr. Green's management better than you do Mr. Strickland's?—Yes.

623. Why do you prefer him?—Because we never were in want of anything—potatoes, vegetables, and so on. We always had ground prepared for those things. Since Mr. Strickland came we have had none.

624. Did Mr. Green sympathize with you more?—Yes; he worked with us, and always made it a practice to go round of a morning after the prayers and visit the huts.

625. Are the young men in the habit of lying before the fire at night?—No, they all lie in bed.

626. Had you vegetables always while Mr. Green was here?—Yes, always.

627. Was there any working at the hops then?—Yes; there was hop working then.

628. Anything else?—I cannot think of anything else just now.

629. (*To Mr. Harris.*)—You have been here since the station was commenced?—Yes.

630. Had you vegetables always during the first ten years?—Yes. The hops were not in the first few years.

631. Why have you not got vegetables now?—Mr. Green used to do a good bit in the garden. There were three of us then. Mr. Burgess in the hop garden, I was at the farm, and Mr. Green superintending the farm and garden.

632. Do you remember when five or six members of the Board came up in 1875 with Mr. Brough Smyth, a short time previous to Mr. Green resigning?—Yes.

633. Had they vegetables that year?—They had vegetables.

634. If the report of the Board says they had no vegetables, would they be telling a falsehood?—They would. There were vegetables every year Mr. Green was here. There were a great number of carrots for three years. There was one year in the flood all the potatoes were rotten.

The witness withdrew.

John Briggs, aboriginal, examined.

John Briggs,
30th Sept. 1881.

635. How old are you?—I am going on for twenty-five years.

636. Where were you born?—Mount Cole, the other side of Ballarat.

637. How long have you been here?—A little over ten years.

638. Do you work on the station?—Yes.

639. Constantly?—Yes.

640. Have you done so ever since you have been on the station?—Yes.

641. Do you get payment for it?—Yes; but I do not know what I am getting.

642. How much do you earn a week generally?—I could not say. I used to earn about 13s. a week when Mr. Halliday was here, but I do not know what I am getting at all now—we get so much an hour. I do not know what it is we are getting.

643. When were you paid last?—Some time last week I think.

644. How much did you get then?—£1 14s.

645. That was for two months' work?—Yes.

646. What do you do with the money?—Buy meat.

647. Are you married?—Yes.

648. Have you any children?—Two children.

649. Does it take all that money to buy meat?—Yes.

650. Does it take more than that?—Yes.

651. How do you get money to pay for the rest?—The butcher trusts us till the next pay day.

652. Do you get enough of other kinds of food?—Flour and tea and sugar?

653. Do you get enough?—Yes, we get enough.

654. Potatoes?—No vegetables of any kind since Mr. Green left; there was plenty in his time.

655. Do you get plenty of clothing to wear?—No, we do not get enough.

656. How much do you get?—Trousers and shirt, no flannel. I have not had a flannel since Mr. Strickland has been on the place.

657. Would you wear it if you had it?—I always take bad if I go without.

658. Have you asked Mr. Strickland for it?—Yes.

659. You did not get it?—No; he said it was not sent up.

660. Did you get them when Mr. Halliday was here?—Yes, I had flannel then.

661. Do you get plenty of employment?—No.

662. Do you work every fine day?—Yes, we work when it is fine.

663. You need not be idle unless you like?—We only go out hunting on wet days.

664. Any fine day you get as much work as you like?—Yes.

665. What kind of work are you generally at?—We are always in the hop paddock.

666. When there is not work in the hop paddock, what do you do?—Grubbing and clearing that road last winter.

667. Do you do any work on the farm?—I have not done any work on the farm for a good bit.

668. Have any improvements been made on the station during the last three years?—No, except two or three huts and two or three waterclosets; there has been a bit of a road made.

John Briggs,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

669. When were those bridges on that road put up?—Some time last winter.

670. And you grubbed the road last winter?—Yes.

671. Is Mr. Strickland kind to you?—No, he never comes near us.

672. Then he cannot be unkind if he does not come near you?—If we ask him for anything he does not give it to us.

673. He does not go amongst you?—No.

674. He never goes down to the hop ground?—I have seen him twice there since he has been here.

675. Have you been ill at all since Mr. Strickland has been here?—Yes.

676. Did Mrs. Strickland ever visit you?—No.

677. Did Mr. Strickland visit you then?—No; he never came near.

678. Were you laid up?—I was laid up for three months in my bed, and could not move. I sent to Captain Page to send me a coat, and that is the only time Mr. Strickland came—to bring the coat.

679. Has your wife ever been ill?—No; only a bit of a cold.

680. When she has got children, who looks after her?—I have to get some of the women outside.

681. Does Mrs. Strickland ever attend at those times?—She just comes in and goes out; she did not attend to her. She has been in twice while my wife was ill.

682. Do many visitors come about—strangers?—Not lately; there was a good few about twelve months ago.

683. You are not aware of any case where they induced them to leave the station?—No.

684. They do not take the girls out in the bush?—No.

685. Do the females on the station go to the river to fish?—No; the women outside do, but not the girls in the house. The women go fishing along the Yarra.

686. Do they go there alone?—Men go with them—their husbands.

687. Not always?—Not always.

688. You never saw any of the girls that are in the house, out fishing?—No.

689. Have you any statement or any complaint to make?—I have a letter that I have got to show the Board.—[*The witness handed in the same, which is as follows:*—Coranderrk Station, 1878. The death of Fanny Mark, who died in the schoolroom, and she died in a dirty state. She was full of vermin—they were eating into her flesh so much that the blood was running down her cheeks, and the flies had been blowing her in the corners of the mouth, and on one side of her neck, the side she was lying. The flies blew her just a few minutes before I saw her, and the vermin was all on her bedding, and all over the floor, and the two bed-ticks that were under her smelt very much; and she was buried with the things she died, with a dark wincey dress, trimmed with red, and a blue serge petticoat. I saw her a few hours before she died and after she died. That is the real truth, and nothing but the truth. I do not know the day of the month she died in.”

690. Who wrote this?—My mother.

691. What is her name?—Mrs. Briggs.

692. Can you tell what time of the year this girl died?—No.

693. (*To Harris.*)—Do you remember?—Just before Christmas; just after Mr. Strickland was here.

694. It was after he took charge of the station?—Yes, I could not say exactly the time, but I know he had not been here very long.

695. (*To the witness.*)—Is there any other complaint you wish to make?—Yes, Mr. Strickland summoned me once, I do not know when it was, for protecting one of my children. He took me to Healesville and stated a lot of lies over there, and said that I came down and snatched one of the children out of the house. He summoned me and they fined me £1. He was flogging the children very severely, and I went to protect them. He did not summon me for two months after he flogged the children.

696. Were you at liberty to make that statement before the bench?—I had no witness; we were all called up in a lump.

697. The bench had to decide upon the evidence; you were fined for rescuing the child—you took the child away?—So Mr. Strickland said.

698. Is there anything else?—There is another complaint that we reported to Captain Page about Mr. Strickland selling a pair of Government wheels; he did not say anything about it.

699. How do you know he sold the wheels?—The party that bought them has got the receipt.

700. Have you seen the receipt?—I have not, but he said he would come forward any time he was called.

701. You reported it to Captain Page when he was up here?—Yes.

702. He did not say anything?—He said if one man in Healesville spoke 100 words there would be 99 lies in it.

703. Is there anything else?—I think that is all.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Wandon, aboriginal, examined.

704. How old are you?—Twenty-five, I think.

705. Where were you born?—Steele's Flat.

706. Have you been on the station since it was established?—Yes, I came with Mr. Green.

707. Have you ever been away working anywhere else?—I was up on the Goulburn a couple of years ago for a few months.

708. Shearing?—Yes.

709. What do you do here?—Working in the hop paddock now.

710. Do you plough?—No.

711. General work?—Yes.

712. Do you get constant work?—Yes.

713. All the year round?—Yes.

Robert Wandon,
30th Sept. 1881.

Robert Wandon,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

714. Have you got much broken weather?—Yes, plenty of wet weather.
 715. How much have you earned during the last twelve months—do you know?—I could not say.
 716. How much did you get last time you were paid?—£3 1s. 10d.
 717. A week ago?—Yes.
 718. A week ago?—Yes, that was for two months.
 719. You had not much broken weather—broken time?—Yes, I was bad for three weeks in those two months.
 720. Are you married?—Yes.
 721. How many children have you?—Two living and one dead.
 722. What do you do with your money?—Buy beef.
 723. Does it take all the money you earn to buy beef?—Yes, and I am in debt, too.
 724. You earned £3 1s. 10d. in two months; there are others that do not earn more than half that—they must be heavily in debt if you have to go into debt—do you make up the difference in the summer when it is fine weather and there is no broken time?—We are always at work when it is fine weather.
 725. Do you keep in debt all the year round?—I have been in debt ever since we started to pay for our meat. When pay day comes I ask the butcher how much it is. He says so-and-so; and I pay as much as I can, and owe him then two or three pounds.
 726. Do you run short of anything but beef?—There are no potatoes here.
 727. Do you get as much flour as will keep you?—I run out of rations every Thursday.
 728. What do you do the other two days?—We have got to loaf on one another.
 729. How can others lend you some?—Some of them always manage to make it run and some do not.
 730. Do you get the same allowance every week?—Yes, four pounds of sugar a week.
 731. Supposing it only lasts five days this week and you run short two days next week, that will be four days in the fortnight—how can you pay back what you borrow?—Sometimes we never pay it back.
 732. You do not buy tea and flour and sugar away at the store?—I have bought sugar, not tea.
 733. How long is it since they adopted this plan of making you pay for the beef?—In Mr. Halliday's time.
 734. You do not find it to answer?—No.
 735. You do not like it?—No, I do not like it at all.
 736. Do you want to be paid and provided with beef also; or if you got plenty of beef from the station you would be willing to do the same amount of work and for them to keep the money?—Yes, I would be satisfied to get plenty to eat and clothes without any money.
 737. You would work just the same?—Yes, work better. I would be stronger.
 738. You do not get enough to eat?—Not half enough.
 739. Do you think "Punch" gets enough?—I do not know.
 740. He works?—Yes, he works.
 741. Do you get enough clothing?—We only get our clothes when we do not want them—that is, the summer time—not when we want them, in the winter time.
 742. When do you get them?—Once a year.
 743. How many do you get?—A pair of trousers and two shirts in the twelve months. This last twelve months we have got two pairs of trousers and shirts. The last stuff they sent up was rotten stuff, and the same with the boots.
 744. When you run out of trousers, for instance, what do you do?—Patch them up the best way we can.
 745. You do not go naked?—No.
 746. Do you buy them?—Yes, I bought this coat.
 747. Do you get two of those shirts you have on a year?—Yes.
 748. And two flannels?—No, I bought this one.
 749. Had you any flannels this twelve months?—No.
 750. Did you apply for any?—Yes, and Mr. Strickland told my wife there was none for the men; so she got flannel for a petticoat, and cut it up for a shirt.
 751. As a matter of fact, you did not get an under flannel shirt for three years?—No.
 752. Do your children get enough clothing?—Not quite enough. My children are very hard on clothes.
 753. Does your wife get enough?—Not quite enough. They just get one dress for the twelve months.
 754. What do they do?—They have to buy, and get into debt just the same. Sometimes our debts run for five or six years. I have known a debt run for three years before I paid him.
 755. What kind of luck had you to be able to pay him at the end of three years?—If I had good weather, I made good time.
 756. You did not go shearing?—No.
 757. Would you like to leave this place?—No.
 758. You would like to make more time than you do?—Yes.
 759. You do not spend any of your money in drink?—No, I do not drink.
 760. You would rather see no drink used on the station at all?—Yes.
 761. You say you have been ill for some time?—Yes, for three weeks.
 762. Laid up?—Yes.
 763. Did Mr. Strickland visit you during that time?—Not till I was getting up. He sent a boy up there to see how I was.
 764. How often?—Only the once.
 765. Is Mr. Strickland kind to you when he meets you?—In a very apologising sort of manner when he comes to us.
 766. Did you ever complain to him of his unkindness?—Yes; I had words with him not very long after he came here.
 767. What did you complain of then?—I was stockriding at the time. He was saying that I was a nice fellow, and all this; and he said his horse was not groomed, and I came and told him about it.

I said I was sorry I did not groom his horse before I went away, and one word fetched on another, and we had a row.

768. Did he report you?—I do not know; but I got the sack from the riding after that. There is no one stockriding now.

769. Have you no one riding about looking after the stock now?—No, not this last twelve months.

770. The station cattle go where they like?—The station cattle go right away the other side of the Don, about eight miles from here, Mr. Strickland said, "I want to speak to you, Robert." He read a letter to me, and said, "Your services are no longer required for stockriding." I used to do the stockriding and butchering for the station.

771. Does your wife have good health always?—Yes, very good health.

772. Has she been laid up during the last three years?—Only her confinements.

773. Who attends her at those times?—There was nobody. The last time Mrs. Strickland was in Melbourne, and there was nobody except Mrs. Dean.

774. Is Mrs. Strickland in the habit of visiting your wife?—When she takes it in her head.

775. Does she come round often?—No; about once a week or once a fortnight. I would have lost my wife only for Mrs. Dean.

776. Have you ever had any occasion to send for Mrs. Strickland to come and visit your wife?—No.

777. You never asked her to attend?—No.

778. Do you get enough bed clothes?—We only got one pair of double blankets since Mr. Strickland has been here. It is four or five years since we got a pair of blankets, and we got another pair since Mr. Strickland came.

779. Have the children proper bed clothes?—They are all lumped together in one bed.

780. Have you any opossum rugs?—No.

781. Have you got enough to keep you warm in the winter?—No, not half enough. I have to get up often and make a fire to warm the children.

782. Have you ever applied for more blankets?—I have heard the men say they have asked and have not got them, so I did not ask.

783. Do you wish to make any statement; is there anything you want to complain of; you were one that went down on the deputation?—Yes.

784. Have you anything to say?—I wish Mr. Green would be sent back again.

785. What was your object in going to town to see Mr. Berry?—To get Mr. Green appointed.

786. Did he promise to appoint him?—He said that our request ought to be granted; that is what he said.

787. Was there a rumor that they were going to break up the station?—Yes; we saw it in the paper that they were going to send us to Lake Tyrer. There was plenty of shooting and hunting, and not so much work, Mr. LeSœuf said, before Mr. Berry.

788. Would you like that sort of life?—No; I would sooner be working.

789. You would not like to be shifted away from here?—No; I have made it my home, I would like to stay.

790. You do not complain of the cold and damp?—No.

791. You have never been away from the station at all?—Only the two months.

792. Did you go up for your health then or to work?—I went up for the shearing.

793. You do not think that any warmer climate would suit you better than this?—No.

794. You prefer living here?—Yes.

795. Would one stockrider be sufficient to keep the ground clear of strange cattle?—Yes; with constant work.

796. How long were you stockrider?—Ever since I could ride.

797. Were there any strange cattle coming on the run then?—There used to be a few, and I used to turn them back.

798. Were the cattle in better condition during that time than they are now?—Yes; I always had my paddock cleaned.

799. Had you always sufficient to kill for the station?—Yes; we had enough. At the time I got the sack I had 147 head.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Dunolly, aboriginal, examined.

800. *By the Board.*—How old are you?—I cannot tell; about twenty-four, I think.

801. Where do you come from?—Dunolly.

802. How long have you been here?—Fourteen or fifteen years.

803. Are you married?—Yes.

804. How old were you when you got married?—Twenty-two, I think.

805. How many children have you?—Two.

806. Is your wife living?—Yes.

807. And the children?—Yes.

808. Do you work?—Yes.

809. Occasionally?—Yes.

810. Get plenty to do?—Yes.

811. Do you work wet and dry?—No, only on fine days.

812. Do you earn much money?—No.

813. How much?—The last payment I got was £1 14s. 8d.

814. What do you do with that money?—Pay it to the butcher.

815. Does it take all that money to keep you in meat?—The bill was £2 12s. 6d. I had to pay the whole of my wages to him.

816. Do you like plenty of meat?—I only have meat once a week from the butcher.

817. Do you get mutton?—Yes.

Thomas Dunolly,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

818. Do you get a large quantity when you do get it?—No; I want to save money, and I cannot.
 819. You do not get as much meat as you would like?—No.
 820. Could you work better if you were better fed?—Yes.
 821. You would be stronger?—Yes.
 822. Do you feel very weak now?—Yes.
 823. Do you think you would be as fat as Punch if you got plenty to eat?—I do not think so.
 824. You do not consider you are in good working condition?—No; I always feel faint when we are working.
 825. You only eat enough to keep you alive?—Yes; we only have bread and tea for our meals.
 826. You get sugar?—Yes.
 827. No milk?—No milk.
 828. No butter?—No butter.
 829. Would you be allowed to keep a cow if you wished?—I do not know.
 830. Have you got a garden?—Yes.
 831. Do you grow vegetables?—Yes.
 832. What kind of vegetables?—Cabbages and onions once a year in the summer time.
 833. How many cabbages do you grow?—About 100. I have to pay for them myself.
 834. They will not grow in winter?—No.
 835. Would they grow the winter?—I do not know; I never tried.
 836. Where have you got the garden?—Over there—[*pointing to the place*].
 837. Do you get enough clothing?—Only once a year.
 838. One pair of trousers?—Yes.
 839. Do they last twelve months?—No.
 840. What do you do then?—We come to Mr. Strickland again, and he said we were not allowed any more, and Captain Page said he could not spare any more. We have to borrow of each other.
 841. Did you ever tell him you had not enough to buy beef?—Yes.
 842. What did he say then?—He said he could not help that—that we have to put our heads together, and get on as we could.
 843. Is that the station trousers you have on?—Yes.
 844. When did you get them?—A fortnight ago.
 845. They will not last you twelve months?—No.
 846. What will you do then?—We have to buy.
 847. Have you had to buy during the last year or two years?—Yes.
 848. If you run in debt for meat how can you pay for clothing?—Tell the butcher we could not pay this time, and he lets us off till next time.
 849. Do you ever earn money by fishing or catching lyre birds?—Yes.
 850. How much?—Last year I earned £3 2s. by fishing and shooting ducks.
 851. Never spent any in drink?—No.
 852. Do you make more at that work than working on the station?—I do not think so.
 853. Did you ever apply to the manager for permission to go and work somewhere else?—Yes.
 854. Would he give you permission?—They gave me permission last summer, but the summer before they did not.
 855. Did you go?—No. I was bad when I was to go. Mr. Wade, of Muddy Creek, sent for me; he sent for me to go shearing. I told Mr. Strickland, and Mr. Strickland wrote to Captain Page, and Captain Page said I could go, and I was bad and could not go.
 856. What do you want now—what is your complaint?—We wish for a better manager, such as Mr. Green was. Mr. Strickland is not fit to be on the station. He does not seem to take an interest in the welfare of us to get on with the work.
 857. Do you complain of his not making you work hard enough?—He does not get us to improve the ground at all; to cultivate hay or potatoes.
 858. How much ground have you got under hay?—About ten acres, I think.
 859. You have not planted any potatoes yet?—No; they came up from town yesterday.
 860. Does Captain Page often come up here?—A few times since those new houses were up, but before he used only to come up once a year.
 861. Did you complain to him you did not like Mr. Strickland?—Yes; we have told him so.
 862. Have you any statement to make?—I have asked Mr. Strickland to let Mr. Green come to see Willie Parker's little girl, named Jessie, while she was sick. He said he could not let Mr. Green come to see her. So I told Mr. Strickland I would go up and see Mr. Green, whether he would come; and Mr. Strickland told me, that if he came here he would be sent off; so I went up and told Mr. Green that, and he told me to never mind; I was to report it to the Board. So I told him I would not report it to the Board, for they would not take any steps in it for me, because they are always against us.
 863. So you do not report it to the Board?—No.
 864. Did you report that circumstance to Captain Page the next time you saw him?—No, I did not.
 865. Did the girl get better?—No, she died. She was dying when I asked Mr. Strickland to let Mr. Green see her.
 866. How often have you prayers in the place?—Service on Sunday, and once every evening lately, since Mr. Brown's report was about.
 867. Do they attend well?—No; they do not come very often.
 868. Are they asked to come?—No.
 869. Not invited?—Not invited, except a few of us, such as he thinks would come. He asked me.
 870. Would the others come if they were invited?—There was Terriek John was asked, and he would not come.
 871. There is nothing more you wish to say?—No; that is all I have got to say.

The witness withdrew.

Alick Campbell, aboriginal, examined.

Alick Campbell,
30th Sept. 1881.

872. How old are you?—About twenty-eight.
 873. Where were you born?—On the Loddon.
 874. How long have you been here?—Ten years.
 875. Are you married?—Yes.
 876. Is your wife living?—Yes.
 877. How many children have you got?—I have four, and two that my wife had before I married her.
 878. Are they all living?—Yes.
 879. How old are the two that your wife had?—The oldest girl is about fifteen, I think.
 880. Do you work on the station?—Yes.
 881. What kind of work?—In the hop ground.
 882. Do you get constant employment all the year round?—Yes.
 883. How much did you get at the last pay day?—I got four pounds.
 884. Was that two months' work—what do you do with your money?—The butcher takes all that from me.
 885. Does it take all the four pounds to provide you with beef?—Yes, it takes all that.
 886. What does he charge you for meat?—I do not know what he charges.
 887. What do you do if that does not provide meat?—Go on again, the same as before, on credit.
 888. You do not go without meat?—I generally do.
 889. Do you get enough of other rations?—Yes, I get enough flour, but not enough sugar. I am out of sugar now.
 890. How much sugar do you get a week for yourself, wife, and children?—Twelve pounds of sugar.
 891. Are there eight of you?—Yes.
 892. It runs out?—Yes.
 893. The tea does not run out?—No.
 894. How do you prepare the flour?—We bake damper and bread sometimes.
 895. Do you get any potatoes or any vegetables?—No.
 896. Not for years?—We got some potatoes, not grown here.
 897. Did you get them in town, and they were served out?—Yes.
 898. When?—About two years ago now.
 899. Are they done?—Yes.
 900. You do not get many?—Only a bucketful is served out.
 901. Have you ever complained to Captain Page or Mr. Strickland that you were not getting enough sugar?—Yes, I came here myself, and told him that I was run out of sugar.
 902. Did they give you a fresh supply?—About a handful to go on with.
 903. Had you to apply for sugar often?—Yes, I applied often for sugar.
 904. Have you been refused any time?—I was refused once.
 905. You say that all you earn does not pay for the meat you require?—No; all the money I earn goes to the butcher, and I have no pocket money at all.
 906. Supposing the Government gave you sufficient beef, would you be willing to work as well as you are doing now and get no money?—It would be better.
 907. You would prefer it?—Yes.
 908. How did you get your coat?—It was given to me by a friend of mine in Melbourne.
 909. You never save sufficient money to buy any clothes?—No.
 910. Do you get enough clothes from the Government?—Only a yearly supply.
 911. How much do you get?—One pair of trousers, a couple of shirts, a blue shirt, a couple of pairs of socks, and a hat, and boots.
 912. One pair of boots?—Yes.
 913. Do you get two shirts the same as you have got on?—No, a cotton one.
 914. Do you get any flannel?—The last I got was twelve months ago.
 915. Is it worn out?—Yes.
 916. Have you got any on now?—Yes.
 917. Where did you get it?—My wife cut it up for me.
 918. Have you applied this year?—I do not know. There is no flannel this year.
 919. Was the flannel that your wife made up as a shirt for you given to her for her own use?—Yes.
 920. Do you get it in pieces of flannel to make the shirts for you?—Yes.
 921. They are not already made?—No.
 922. The shirts that your wife makes for you are out of the piece of flannel that she gets from the station to make?—Yes.
 923. Is that given for her own use?—For her own use to make petticoats.
 924. And she gives it to you?—Yes.
 925. Who made the last shirt you got?—It was ready made.
 926. I mean the flannel?—My wife made it.
 927. Was the one you got last year intended for your wife's wear or your own?—For my wife's.
 928. Then the flannel you get is for your wife?—Yes.
 929. You got one from Mr. Strickland last year?—Yes.
 930. Was that one made up?—No, that was not made up.
 931. You understand we want to know whether your wife gets enough flannel to make shirts for your use a year?—No, she does not.
 932. That shirt she got last year, did she not get that flannel on purpose for you?—Yes.
 933. That one you are wearing now she ought to have?—Yes.
 934. Are you quite content?—Quite content.
 935. You have no complaint against Mr. Strickland?—Yes, I have.
 936. You are content to stop here—you do not want to leave the place?—Yes.

Alick Campbell
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

937. What are your complaints against Mr. Strickland?—When I asked him for the buggy to take my wife to Melbourne—she was sick with rheumatic fever—he said no, I could not have the buggy because he wanted it for his own use, to drive the family to the Black Spur; and when I was going away I asked him for money. I said, “Will you give me some money to go down to town?” He said “No, I have got no money.” I said, “Have you not got any Government money?” He said, “No, I have not.” I said, “How am I to do?” He said, “I do not know.” So I borrowed some money from the people round about here, and took my wife down.

938. In the coach?—Yes.

939. Did not they allow you the price of the coach?—No.

940. Do not they allow some people who go off the station a fare?—They take people there. At that time when I asked him he refused me.

941. Did you pay for the coach?—Yes.

942. Where did you take your wife when you went to town?—I took her to the hospital.

943. Did you pay coach fare for your wife and yourself coming back?—Yes. She was in there three weeks—in the hospital; and I went from here to see her, paying my own fare and back again till I brought her out.

944. Were you one of the parties that went down on the deputation?—Yes.

945. What was the grievance then when you went down—what were you complaining of?—Of Mr. Strickland not being a fit manager on the place.

946. You wish to get Mr. Green back again?—Yes.

947. Who was the agitator that got you to go down to this deputation?—It was ourselves.

948. You got it up amongst yourselves?—Yes.

949. Have you anything more to say?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Henry Harmony, aboriginal, examined.

Henry Harmony,
30th Sept. 1881.

950. How old are you?—Rising twenty-six.

951. Where were you born?—Near Majorca.

952. How long have you been here?—Eight years and a half.

953. Are you married?—Yes, I was married on September the 15th.

954. Of last year?—Yes.

955. Is your wife on the station?—Yes.

956. Have you any children?—No.

957. What do you work at?—In the hop garden.

958. Are you there constantly?—As far as the weather will allow.

959. You get employment all the year round, if it is fine weather?—Yes.

960. How much did you get your last pay day?—£2 2s.

961. Do some work in wet weather, and others not?—No, they do not work in wet weather.

962. Then how can one earn £4 and another 30s.?—It depends upon the time spent getting wood and things.

963. What do you do with the money you earn?—All I earn goes to the butcher.

964. Do you get enough meat from the butcher?—Sometimes 12 lbs., and 7 lbs., and so on.

965. Does that last you and your wife a week?—Yes.

966. Do you get in debt?—Yes, I am in debt now.

967. When do you expect to get out of debt?—I expect to get out of debt next pay day.

968. You will work more hours?—Yes.

969. And make more wages?—Yes.

970. Do you get enough of other rations?—We do not get enough of flour—sometimes we run out in the middle of the week.

971. How do you get supplied during the rest of the week?—We have to beg from our neighbors.

972. Then do they get more than they can eat?—That is more than I can tell you.

973. Do some get more than they are entitled to?—Some send flour to the baker to get the bread baked, and keep Saturday's rations of flour.

974. Supposing the Government supplied you with everything sufficient to keep you, and did not give you wages at all, but expected you to work just the same, would you be satisfied with that?—Yes, and what we make out of the produce of the ground.

975. If they supplied you with those, you could not get the money the hops brought?—No.

976. If you got clothing and plenty to eat, would you prefer that to having to buy beef?—Yes.

977. You would be willing then to work eight hours every workable day, and get no money?—Yes.

978. Do you get plenty of clothing?—For the last three months we have.

979. All the year round?—We get it yearly, a pair of trousers and a shirt.

980. Only one pair every year?—Yes, until you need another.

981. Do you get another pair when you need one?—Yes, you get another.

982. Do you get enough underclothing—shirts and flannels?—I have not got any.

983. Do you wear any flannel?—Yes flannel and drawers.

984. Where do you get them?—My wife made the drawers out of a petticoat.

985. How were you provided with a flannel?—I got a flannel shirt when I was single.

986. From the station?—Yes.

987. Did it last you ever since?—Yes.

988. Does a flannel shirt last you for twelve months as a rule?—If I have another under wear it will last two years.

989. You do not complain so much of the want of clothing as of the want of rations?—No.

990. Does your wife get enough clothing?—Yes, at present.

991. Where did she come from?—From Wangaratta district.

992. How long has she been on the station?—I do not know; I was away when she came.

- 1872, I think. I came back last Christmas twelve months, the Christmas before I got married.
994. What were you doing?—Fencing, bullock-driving, and other work—ploughing and farm work.
995. Were you on an aboriginal station?—No.
996. Knocking about the country?—Yes.
997. Did you like it?—I did not care much about it.
998. Did you save any money?—Yes, I saved a good few shillings.
999. Did it amount to pounds?—Yes, the day I left I had £15.
1000. What use did you make of that?—I bought a watch and some clothes. I came straight up here and got married.
1001. Did you go shearing?—No, I am not much of a shearer.
1002. Would you like to be allowed to go when you like and come back when you like; go away in fine weather, and come back in winter?—Yes.
1003. Does this cold climate suit you?—Yes, so far as I can judge.
1004. You have not had lung disease since you have been here?—No.
1005. What does your wife do for a petticoat when she gives it to you?—When she was single she had two or three.
1006. Have you enough blankets to sleep in?—I have enough at present.
1007. From the station?—Yes.
1008. Have you any complaint to make against Mr. Strickland?—I have this complaint, that he is not a fit man on the place in regard to coming and seeing the men in the hop paddock.
1009. You have a man in the hop paddock; Mr. Strickland has nothing to do with the hops?—When Mr. Green was here he used to be in the paddock when Tom was at the ploughing.
1010. Mr. Strickland has no power over Harris, so it would be out of his latitude altogether; as long as you and Harris can get on well out at work Mr. Strickland cannot interfere at all. We want to know if he is kind to you; does he visit the sick and attend to them?—I have hardly ever seen him in the store when rations are served out.
1011. Who serves them out?—Mrs. Strickland, and Tom Harris, and one of the daughters.
1012. Have you confidence in Harris?—I have confidence in him.
1013. You believe he would do you justice, and see you got what the rules gave you?—Yes.
1014. Have you a book to sign that you received so much clothing?—No.
1015. No receipt or anything?—No.
1016. Supposing that the Government allowed you as much as you could eat and drink, found you potatoes and vegetables, and gave you sufficient clothing, and made you work the same as you are doing now, but gave you no money for it, would you be content to stop, even with Mr. Strickland as manager?—I would be content if we grew our own potatoes or our own crops, and had plenty to eat—I would be satisfied.
1017. You do not care who is manager?—I do not care who is manager.
1018. Do you wish to say anything more to the Board?—I have no grievance only what I have said.
1019. Were you down on the deputation to Mr. Berry?—Yes.
1020. What was your grievance then?—We heard that the station was going to be sold, so we thought we would go down and see Mr. Berry about it.
1021. Did you complain of Mr. Strickland's conduct to Mr. Berry?—Yes.
1022. Did you recommend anyone else being put in his place?—I was not asked; the rest were asked, and they recommended Mr. Green to be back in Mr. Strickland's place.
1023. Were you all together, or did one at a time go in to see Mr. Berry?—One at a time.

The witness withdrew.

Johnny Charles, aboriginal, examined.

1024. How old are you?—About twenty-nine.
1025. Where were you born?—Bacchus Marsh.
1026. How long have you been on this station?—About 16 or 17 years.
1027. You came immediately after they commenced?—Yes.
1028. Have you always been working here?—Yes, most of the time.
1029. Do you go away to work elsewhere?—No.
1030. Do not you go shearing?—I went one year to Mrs. Bon's.
1031. Where is that?—On what they call the Devil's River.
1032. That is the only time you were away working?—Yes.
1033. Are you married?—Yes.
1034. Is your wife living?—Yes.
1035. How many children have you?—Three.
1036. How long have you been married?—Seven years.
1037. You are now employed on the station?—Yes.
1038. Constant employment?—Yes.
1039. Every day fit for work?—Yes.
1040. In the hop garden?—I mostly do the farm work for Mr. Harris.
1041. How much did you get at the last pay?—I got £2 18s. 4d.
1042. Have you to pay for your own beef?—Yes.
1043. You paid for the beef out of that?—Yes.
1044. Did that give you sufficient beef for the two months?—No.
1045. Did you pay the butcher?—I am in debt £1 5s. to the butcher now.
1046. Did that £1 5s. accumulate before that?—Yes, I was in debt before.
1047. How much?—I could not say just now—I think it was 12s.
1048. Do you get enough food of other kinds?—No; I do not get enough rations.
1049. What do you run short of?—Sugar and flour during the week.
1050. Do you know what allowance you get—how many pounds?—Amongst the family we only get seven pounds of sugar. I could not say how much tea—I think a pound of tea.

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Johnny Charles,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

1051. How much flour?—I could not say how much.
 1052. You take what they give you?—Yes.
 1053. Who serves you with the rations—who gives it out?—Mr. Harris.
 1054. Are you of opinion that Mr. Harris would give you a full allowance?—Yes.
 1055. You are satisfied of that?—Yes.
 1056. The Board does not allow you enough?—No.
 1057. In the event of the Board giving you as much as was reasonable of all kinds of food, flour, tea, sugar, vegetables, and beef, would you be satisfied to work as you are doing now without any money?—Yes; we were satisfied with that before Mr. Green went away.
 1058. You like that way better?—Yes.
 1059. Did you work just as much then as you do now?—Yes, every bit.
 1060. Without any grumbling?—Without any grumbling.
 1061. If you were better fed, could you work more?—Yes.
 1062. Do you feel hungry?—Yes, we do.
 1063. Do you feel weak?—Yes.
 1064. And faint?—Faint; do not feel inclined for work during the day.
 1065. Is that owing to the want of food?—Yes.
 1066. The heat would not prevent your working if it were not for want of food?—No.
 1067. Supposing you got enough for any reasonable person to eat and drink, would you be satisfied then?—Yes.
 1068. You would be satisfied then, whoever was manager?—I would be satisfied in regard to the food, but I would like to have Mr. Green back.
 1069. What is your object in wishing for Mr. Green back?—He was very good to us, in regard to the natives.
 1070. He mixed with you?—Yes, and sympathized with us.
 1071. Do you have good health now?—Yes.
 1072. You have not been ill lately?—No.
 1073. Not since Mr. Strickland has been here?—No.
 1074. Does he visit the people when they are sick?—I could not say, I am not at home when he goes out.
 1075. Has your wife been sick?—She has been laid up through trouble in her confinements, but that is all.
 1076. Does Mrs. Strickland visit the women on the station?—Yes.
 1077. How often?—To my knowledge, she only came to my place three times.
 1078. Is she in the habit of going once a week, or once a fortnight?—I could not say.
 1079. Do you get enough clothing?—No, we do not.
 1080. Who provides you with it?—What I have on I got from some party in Melbourne.
 1081. What have you done with what you get on the station?—I have two trousers and two shirts at home.
 1082. Do you get two pairs of trousers a year?—We have this year, not before.
 1083. How many flannels do you get?—Not any.
 1084. Do you wear flannels?—Yes.
 1085. How do you get them?—My wife made them out of a petticoat.
 1086. Does she get it in the piece?—Yes.
 1087. Does the station allow you any or not?—I could not say.
 1088. Did you ever get ready-made under-shirts?—No.
 1089. Your wives are supposed to make them for you?—Yes.
 1090. Does your wife get more flannel than she wants, and make it up for you?—No.
 1091. Did you ever complain to Mr. Strickland or Captain Page that you could not get flannel?—No.
 1092. Before you got the suit you have on, and your trousers wore out, how did you do then?—I would have to buy it.
 1093. Supposing they saw that you were going very raggedy, almost naked, would they not give you another pair?—I daresay they would if you asked for it.
 1094. Why would you not ask for it; you are not afraid, are you?—No.
 1095. Are you ever refused if you go and ask for clothes when you are in want of them?—Sometimes when you ask for a thing they say they have not got it.
 1096. If they have it they give it?—Yes.
 1097. Have you any complaint to make to us about the management, or any grievance?—All the grievance I have is that Mr. Strickland is not a fit man to be superintendent.
 1098. Why?—He does not sympathize with the natives.
 1099. Do you attend his service on Sunday?—Yes, I attend regularly every Sunday twice.
 1100. Does he have prayers any other time?—Yes, every night in the week.
 1101. Do you all come in?—No, only a few of us.
 1102. Does he ask the others to come in?—Yes.
 1103. Often?—Yes, often.
 1104. They do not care for it?—No.
 1105. It would not do to punish them for not doing it?—No, you cannot compel them to come in if they do not care to.
 1106. Does he tell them it is their duty to come in?—No, he never reasons with them.
 1107. Anything else?—Nothing else.

The witness withdrew.

Johnny Terrick, aboriginal, examined.

1108. How old are you?—About thirty-eight.
 1109. Where were you born?—Terrick.
 1110. How long have you been on this station?—Twelve years.
 1111. Are you married?—Yes.

Johnny Terrick,
30th Sept. 1881.

1112. Is your wife living?—Yes.
1113. How many children have you got?—Two.
1114. Have you ever been off the station since you came first?—No.
1115. Never been away working anywhere else?—No.
1116. Constantly employed on the station?—Yes, except when I am bad; I work when I am better and when it is fine.
1117. Are you ill from lung disease?—Yes.
1118. Does this climate agree with you?—Yes, middling.
1119. In the winter time you are worse than in the summer?—Yes.
1120. Do you think a warmer part of the country would suit you better?—Yes.
1121. Would you like to go back where you came from?—Yes.
1122. Did you ever ask to be allowed to go back?—Yes, when I was bad I asked to be allowed to go for fresh air; he would not let me go.
1123. You get paid every two months?—Yes.
1124. What amount did you receive the last time you were paid?—16s. I was bad.
1125. During the time you were bad did they supply you with beef-tea or broth?—Yes, beef-tea.
1126. And broth?—Government meat.
1127. When you were bad?—Yes; I get it yet.
1128. Have you been able to work lately?—Yes.
1129. This week?—Yes.
1130. You are still receiving Government meat?—Yes.
1131. What kind of work do you do generally?—Not the hard work—hoeing in the hops.
1132. Do you get other rations sufficient—flour, tea, and sugar?—No.
1133. Do you get enough when you are sick?—Not much; when I am sick I do not get much—when I work I get full rations.
1134. When you are at work do you get enough rations?—Yes.
1135. It lasts you the whole week?—Yes.
1136. When you are at work do the wages you earn pay for all the beef you get from the butcher?—I was buying meat when I was not bad.
1137. Did you get into debt?—Yes.
1138. Are you in debt now?—Yes.
1139. All the money you earn does not keep you in beef?—No.
1140. How much do you get in debt generally?—All the money which came to me went to the butcher.
1141. How much do you owe the butcher?—£2 to Chandler and £1 to Allen.
1142. If you are able to work regularly, and are not sick at all, would you be able to earn enough to keep you in beef?—Yes; if I did not feel bad I would work more.
1143. You say they supply you with beef from the station when you are ill?—Yes.
1144. They give you enough beef during that time?—Yes, about 8 lbs. a week.
1145. For yourself, wife, and two children?—Yes.
1146. And that does you?—Yes.
1147. What do you pay the butcher a pound for beef when you get it?—I do not know.
1148. Have you got plenty of clothes?—Yes.
1149. You do not complain of the want of clothing?—We have got trousers, shirts, and boots.
1150. When they wear out do you get another pair?—Yes.
1151. Whenever you apply for them?—Yes.
1152. Have you ever been refused, during the last three years, when you applied for them?—If the clothes were all broken we might buy some from the hawker.
1153. Who pays for that?—We pay him half perhaps now, and half next year.
1154. Besides the blue shirt and the trousers, how many shirts do you get?—This last time I got two shirts.
1155. Do you wear flannels?—Yes.
1156. Does the Government give you flannels?—Yes, the woman sews them.
1157. She gets the flannel?—Yes, from the stock.
1158. Whenever that flannel wears out do you get another one?—No, I do not get any more.
1159. Do you ask for any more?—Yes, he says the flannels are done.
1160. When did you get that flannel you have got on?—This year.
1161. It is good enough yet?—Yes.
1162. Have you got another?—No.
1163. How do you do when that flannel wants washing?—If another loading comes up from Melbourne.
1164. They are not washed till you get another?—Yes.
1165. What do you do then?—Wear another outside shirt.
1166. Do your boots last you?—Yes.
1167. When will you get the next pair—can you get a pair to-day if you apply for them?—No.
1168. Do they give a pair?—We wear the boots till they send another pair from town. Sometimes we are barefoot, when the boot is all broken.
1169. You would rather go to a warmer part of the country, providing you got the same treatment you get anywhere else—if you got enough to eat and to wear in a warmer part of the country would you prefer that to stopping here?—I would not like to go altogether. I would like to go for fresh air. I am always bad every winter.
1170. Have you asked them to let you go?—I asked Captain Page plenty of times. He would not let me go.
1171. How long since were you bad last time?—I do not feel well now.
1172. Have you been laid up in bed that you were not able to rise at all?—Yes, I was laid on the bed sometimes. I would go into the paddock and do a little work to keep me warm. When I am lying down I feel well.

Johnny Terrick,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

1173. Did the doctor see you during your illness?—Yes.
 1174. Did he give you medicine?—Yes.
 1175. Who served out the medicine—was it handed out to you to do what you liked with it?—Yes.
 1176. Who had it?—Mr. Strickland.
 1177. Does Mr. Strickland visit you when you are ill?—Sometimes.
 1178. Has your wife been ill?—Yes.
 1179. Does any one visit her?—No.
 1180. Does Mrs. Strickland call to see her at all?—Sometimes when she is sent for.
 1181. I see, by the book, you were away hunting for about six weeks. Where were you when you were hunting?—Mr. Fisher's, on the Goulburn. I asked Mr. Strickland to let me go for fresh air, when I was bad.
 1182. Do you drink any when you are away?—No, never drink anything.
 1183. Were you ever drunk?—Sometimes, but I did not like it.
 1184. You have not been drunk lately?—No.
 1185. You do not want to be drunk again?—No.
 1186. Have you ever been brought before the bench, at Healesville?—Yes.
 1187. Have you ever been fined?—No.
 1188. Have you any complaint to make against any one, against the treatment you receive, or anything of that kind?—Yes, I was asking for my house; I want a house to be put up. My house is a bark hut, that is not whitefellow's putting up. I asked Captain Page, "I want some house"; he said, "All right," and put two new houses up. I was away then, and Captain Page sent word to Mr. Strickland and told him to put a man into the new houses. Bobby and Jack Briggs went into the new houses. I am living in a bark hut, the ground is damp in winter time; you can see the ground is damp. Nobody would live in a house like that I am living in; a bad bit of a house—damp. Captain Page came again. I asked him again, "Could you allow me to have a new house?" and he said, "Go and ask Mr. Berry for money."
 1189. Did you go to Mr. Berry?—Yes; I did not go for this.
 1190. You went with the deputation?—Yes.
 1191. What was the cause of the deputation going to town—what did you ask for from Mr. Berry?
 —I only went to listen to the other chaps, I never spoke.
 1192. Have you anything more to say?—I have got nothing to say much.
 1193. You would be satisfied if they would give you plenty to eat, and clothes, and a good house?
 —I would sooner have a warm house.
 1194. You would be then satisfied?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Richard Dick, aboriginal, examined.

Richard Dick,
30th Sept. 1881.

1195. *By the Board.*—How old are you?—I do not know.
 1196. Where were you born—where do you come from?—I do not know where I was born, my country is Kilmore.
 1197. How long have you been on this station?—I came on with Mr. Green.
 1198. Are you married?—Yes.
 1199. Your wife alive?—Yes.
 1200. Living here now?—Yes.
 1201. Any children?—No.
 1202. Have you had any?—No.
 1203. Do you work?—Yes.
 1204. Where do you work?—I used to split post and rails in Mr. Green's time.
 1205. What have you been doing this last year or two?—In the hop ground.
 1206. Do you work full time, every day the weather is good?—Yes, I work in the fine days. When the shower comes it touches my back. I always feel sick there, and in my chest.
 1207. Are you worse in winter than in summer?—Yes.
 1208. You quite recover in summer?—Yes.
 1209. Have you been away from the station since you came here?—I have been away for a long while—for three months.
 1210. When?—About two years ago.
 1211. What were you doing?—I asked Captain Page for leave to go to Warrnambool for my health for three months.
 1212. You went there?—Yes.
 1213. Did your health improve?—Yes; when I came back I was better.
 1214. Would you rather stop there than here?—I should rather stop here.
 1215. If you do not get your health would you not rather stop where you would not be sick?—I would rather stop here now; I do not think I will go anywhere any more.
 1216. You want to go away now and again?—I do not think I will go anywhere any more.
 1217. Are you getting too old to go about the country?—Yes, and I feel very weak, too.
 1218. You do not feel fit for work?—No; I would sooner stop here, and do the work at this place.
 1219. You are paid every two months?—Yes.
 1220. You cannot tell how much a week you get?—No.
 1221. How much did you get at the last pay?—At the last pay I got 9s. 3½d.
 1222. What did you do with that money?—I tried to pay my debts with it.
 1223. You paid that away to pay part of your debt?—Yes.
 1224. Who furnishes you with meat?—I get very little meat from the Government; 6 lbs. would not stand long.
 1225. Do you get 6 lbs. from Government?—Yes; that would not last me long.
 1226. Would not 6 lbs. do two persons a week?—No, not two that have got to work.
 1227. They only give you the 6 lbs. when you are not working?—I get that all along.
 1228. Work or no work?—From the Government—yes.

1229. We had a witness in here, just now, who said that eight pounds was enough for himself and wife and two children?—Yes.

1230. Did you go down to Melbourne on that deputation to see Mr. Berry?—Yes.

1231. You were one?—Yes.

1232. What did you ask Mr. Berry?—We went about the station.

1233. You were afraid they were going to sell it?—Yes.

1234. Have you no other complaints; did you make any other complaint about the treatment—about the management?—We asked for Mr. Green to be appointed manager again.

1235. You would like Mr. Green?—Yes, I like Mr. Green well.

1236. Do you like Mrs. Green?—Yes, very much.

1237. Do you like Mr. Strickland?—No.

1238. Why?—I do not like Mr. Strickland because he will never call over to me when I am sick in my bed.

1239. He does not visit you when you are sick?—No; since he came on the station he has never come and offered to enter my door.

1240. Has your wife ever been sick?—Yes.

1241. Does any one visit her when she is in bed?—Sometimes.

1242. Who visits her?—Mrs. Strickland's daughter.

1243. Are they kinder than their father?—Sometimes.

1244. Is Mrs. Strickland kind?—I do not know, I cannot say much about that, because I do not come in often except when I am sick.

1245. Do you ever attend the preaching here?—Yes.

1246. Every Sunday?—Sometimes I come in when I feel right. When I feel ill in my chest I cannot come in.

1247. Your grievance is that he does not visit you when you are sick?—Yes; I do not like Mr. Strickland much.

1248. Does he like you?—I do not exactly think he likes me.

1249. Does he like any of the people?—I do not know. When I feel sick he does not come up to my place, and it fidgets me.

1250. You would like to see him come?—Yes. When I was sick he did not come near me, and that is why I do not like him.

1251. Do you get enough to wear; do you get enough clothing?—I asked Mr. Strickland in the store for a blue shirt, and the mistress was there too, and he said, "I will see directly, and I will give it to you." I went home and came back again, and said to Mr. Strickland, "Have you that blue shirt?" He said "No," and all the time he had got a bundle in the store. He does not like to give it to me, I think.

1252. How many pairs of trousers do you get during the year?—Two; one dirty, one is washed.

1253. Do you wear flannels?—Yes.

1254. Do you get enough of them?—No, I did not get any this time; he did not give it to me when I sent my payment down. He said he had got none all the time he had plenty in the store put away somewhere; I do not know where.

1255. How do you know?—I know it well; that is the truth.

1256. Did you see it?—Yes, I saw it.

1257. You did not know where it was; how could you see it?—I saw it in the store one time.

1258. Have you plenty of blankets?—A blanket once a year.

1259. Are you quite warm at night?—Yes.

1260. Have you got any other complaint?—I was going to say this: when I came back from Warrnambool (when Captain Page gave me leave to go to Warrnambool, I wanted to go there for my health) I wrote a letter to Captain Page; at least, one of my friends wrote it. He got the letter, but he did not send me the ticket I asked for to come back again. I came across a friend who gave me a lift back again to Melbourne, and from Melbourne I came by coach next day. I started to walk. Three months after the pay day came, and when I came in to this table Captain Page wrote a letter to Mr. Strickland to take ten shillings out of my account for that coach ticket. He never sent the ticket to me.

1261. Anything else?—We want Mr. Green back very badly.

1262. You have got nothing more to say?—Mr. Green was very good. He grew vegetables here a long time, and oats, hay, potatoes, and carrots; he grew everything, and we cannot get that now Mr. Strickland is here.

1263. Had you plenty of beef in Mr. Green's time?—Yes.

1264. You had not to buy beef then?—No.

1265. Did you work as well then as you do now?—Yes, I could lift a big log in Mr. Green's time.

1266. Now you do not get enough to eat?—No.

1267. And you feel weak?—Yes.

1268. Do you think it would help your sickness if you got more to eat?—Yes; but we cannot get it when Mr. Strickland is here. In Mr. Green's time we got plenty.

1269. You do not want to see this station broken up?—No.

1270. You are quite content to live here if you get enough to eat and enough to wear?—I cannot leave here till I die. I am getting old now.

1271. Do you wish to say anything else?—That is all, I think.

The witness withdrew.

William Parker, aboriginal, examined.

1272. How old are you?—About thirty.

1273. Where did you come from?—Jim Crow.

1274. Are you married?—Yes.

1275. Is your wife alive?—Yes; I am just newly married.

1276. Were you ever married before?—Yes.

William Parker,
continued,
30th Sept. 1881.

1277. Any children?—They are all dead.
 1278. Where did they die?—Here. My wife died in the hospital.
 1279. How long ago?—Twelve months ago.
 1280. What are you doing here?—Work in the hops sometimes.
 1281. Are you working all the year round?—I was working all the year round. I felt bad this last fortnight or three weeks.
 1282. Do you ever leave the station to go anywhere else?—I have been for a trip up to Echuca.
 1283. What did you go to Echuca for?—For my health.
 1284. Did it improve your health?—Not much.
 1285. Which do you think best, warm weather or cold?—My country is as cold as this.
 1286. During the last year or two did you get your health better in the summer than you did in the winter?—Not much.
 1287. Do you earn enough money to buy enough beef?—No.
 1288. How much did you get at the last pay?—£1 19s.
 1289. What did you do with all that money?—I paid the butcher.
 1290. Are you still in debt to the butcher?—I am a little. I am nearly £2 in debt still.
 1291. Whom do you owe the money to?—Mrs. Malloy, and others.
 1292. What did you buy?—My wife got things.
 1293. What did she buy?—Kerosene and candles, and other things.
 1294. Do they allow you anything for light after dark?—I mean the Government?—I do not know whether they do. If we ask, we get a little.
 1295. What do you get?—Candles.
 1296. I want to know how much you pay a pound for the beef you get from the butchers?—Three-pence or fourpence a pound, I think.
 1297. Do you buy it without knowing how much you pay for it?—We do not pay for it until we get the money.
 1298. Have you your last account from the butcher?—No.
 1299. He calls and tells you you owe so much money?—Yes; he brings his book with him.
 1300. He does not leave any paper with you?—No.
 1301. You do not know what you are paying for it?—No.
 1302. Whom do you get it from?—From Chandler just now.
 1303. Are you able to work generally?—I was able to work until two or three months ago. I have been in the hospital.
 1304. Do you mean to say you do not earn enough money to keep you in beef?—No.
 1305. Supposing the Government gave you enough beef, would you be willing to work without receiving any money—if they gave you plenty of clothes and plenty to eat?—Yes.
 1306. Willing?—Yes.
 1307. And do as much work as you are doing now?—Yes.
 1308. Do you get enough clothing—trousers and shirts and flannels?—I have not got a flannel this twelve months.
 1309. Have you not one on?—I have, but I got it about twelve months ago.
 1310. Did you go to town that time—some two months ago—to Mr. Berry?—Yes.
 1311. What led you to go to town?—We saw in the papers they were going to do away with the station.
 1312. And you went to town to tell Mr. Berry he should not sell the station?—Yes.
 1313. Had you any other complaints to make at that time. Did you complain of Mr. Harris or Mr. Strickland or Captain Page?—No.
 1314. Did you ask Mr. Berry for anything?—No, not at that time.
 1315. Just to keep the station here?—Yes.
 1316. Have you any complaints to make now?—About managing the station; it is not managed properly.
 1317. How would you like it managed?—I would like to see it grow everything for itself—to support itself.
 1318. You want to see everything grown here, so as not to have to buy anything?—Yes.
 1319. Have you time to do it when you are working at the hops?—There are so many men at the hops and so many men to the other farm work.
 1320. Are any of the men idle any part of the year?—Not that I know of unless they are sick.
 1321. Could you do more work than is done now on the place?—We could do a lot of work.
 1322. Besides what is done now?—Yes.
 1323. Have you not work enough?—We cannot do much as we are treated.
 1324. Do you get enough to eat except beef?—I run out in flour sometimes.
 1325. How much flour do you get every week—you and your wife?—Seventeen pounds of flour.
 1326. Do you get enough tea?—I get enough tea; it is sugar and flour I run out of.
 1327. And beef?—Yes.
 1328. Do you know how much sugar you get?—Four pounds.
 1329. In any part of the season do you get beef from the station, not from the butcher?—We have to buy it.
 1330. Can you get it by buying on the station at any part of the year?—When they kill.
 1331. Do they kill?—Not now.
 1332. At any time?—They used to kill one time, but not now.
 1333. How long is it since they killed?—I am not sure; I could not tell you; I was here when Mr. Green was here.
 1334. You were more satisfied then than you are now?—Yes.
 1335. Plenty to eat?—Plenty of potatoes, cabbages, turnips, and everything.

The witness withdrew.

George Briggs, aboriginal, examined.

George Briggs,
30th Sept. 1881.

1336. Are you the brother of the other Briggs that was in here?—Yes.
 1337. How old are you?—Thirty-eight.
 1338. Where did you come from?—Tasmania.
 1339. Were you born in Tasmania?—Yes.
 1340. How long have you been on the station?—Six weeks at the present time. I never stay on the station.
 1341. Were you here on the former station?—No, I have been working up country.
 1342. You came from Tasmania with your father and mother?—Yes.
 1343. Where were your father and mother when you came over?—They came to Melbourne.
 1344. When they came up here did you come with them?—No, I stopped on a station on the other side of Fiery Creek.
 1345. Where did you come from lately?—Daylesford, near Ballarat.
 1346. What were you doing there?—Bullock driving.
 1347. Did you get tired of that work?—No, they were giving the bullocks a spell, and I thought I would come and see my mother and brother.
 1348. Have you been working here at all?—Yes, I was here about two years ago, and stopped about eight weeks.
 1349. You worked then?—Yes.
 1350. You prefer being away to stopping here?—Yes.
 1351. Have you worked any since you came back?—Yes, during the time I was here I worked and never received any payment. I was hunted off the station by Captain Page.
 1352. What was that for?—I do not know.
 1353. Have you been married?—I have been, but my wife left me.
 1354. Did you marry here?—No, at Ararat.
 1355. A black?—No, a white woman.
 1356. Any children?—Yes.
 1357. Where are they?—In the Industrial School; I pay so much a week for them.
 1358. What wages do you make here?—I get the same wages as the rest of the men.
 1359. Some of them earn three times as much as the others?—I worked with the majority of the men.
 1360. You have not been paid since you arrived?—No.
 1361. It is not due till the latter end of the month?—No.
 1362. What rations do you get; do you get enough?—No.
 1363. Do you know how much you get?—No, I never asked. I know we do not get enough.
 1364. Who weighs it out?—My mother gets it. I do not know who weighs it.
 1365. She gets the rations for you and your brother?—No, me and herself, my brother is married.
 1366. You have to buy beef yourself?—Yes.
 1367. Can you earn more money than is required to buy beef?—I have never earned any from the station.
 1368. You get credit from the butcher?—Yes.
 1369. How much do you pay for the beef?—I do not know.
 1370. Is it your intention to stay on this station?—Not while I am able to work. I am going away in a very short time again.
 1371. You can do better up the country?—Much better. The time I was here before when Captain Page sent me away, the money I earned he paid to the butcher in the township without my giving him an order.
 1372. Did you complain of that?—It was only the other day I found it out. I thought I had something to receive.
 1373. Do you know how much you owe the butcher?—I owed him nothing. I was living with my brother. I only came down to stop a few weeks.

The witness withdrew.

Tommy Avoca examined.

Tommy Avoca,
30th Sept. 1881.

1374. You do not know your age?—No.
 1375. Where did you come from?—I came from Mount Franklin.
 1376. How long since?—Sixteen years ago.
 1377. You have been here sixteen years?—Yes.
 1378. Have you ever been away since?—No.
 1379. You never went away to work anywhere else?—No.
 1380. Have you been working here constantly since then?—Yes.
 1381. Have you ever been sick?—Sometimes.
 1382. Are you suffering from lung disease?—Yes.
 1383. You cough?—Yes.
 1384. What time of the year are you most troubled?—Winter time.
 1385. Are you married?—Yes.
 1386. Is your wife living?—Yes.
 1387. Have you children?—No.
 1388. Have you had any?—Yes.
 1389. And they died?—Yes.
 1390. How long ago since they died?—I do not know how many years. It was when Mr. Green was here.
 1391. Were you married when you came to the station?—We were old people when we came.
 1392. Were your children born before you came here?—Yes, born up Talbot way.
 1393. What was the cause of death—did they die from lung disease?—Yes.
 1394. Are you able to work now?—Sometimes.
 1395. Do you earn much money?—Not enough.

Tommy Avoca,
continued.
3rd Sept. 1881.

1396. How much did you get last pay day?—£3, sometimes £4.
 1397. How much last time?—Sixteen shillings last time.
 1398. How was it you only got sixteen shillings last time?—We have to buy the meat.
 1399. Is sixteen shillings' worth of beef enough for you for two months?—At the same time we pay for what we get from the storekeeper.
 1400. You do not buy tea and sugar at the store?—Sometimes.
 1401. Are you out of flour sometimes?—Sometimes.
 1402. You do not get enough from the Government to keep you?—No.
 1403. How many days does the allowance last you?—We get it every Saturday. Sometimes we run out on Thursday, sometimes on Friday.
 1404. What do you do the other days when you are without?—We sell baskets and fish; and we get a little tea and sugar when we are out of tea and sugar.
 1405. Did you ever complain that you did not get enough?—Yes.
 1406. What did he say?—The manager?
 1407. Yes?—He said, "Nothing of the sort."
 1408. Supposing you get all you want from the Government—as much as you can eat—would you work without pay?—I do not know.
 1409. You would like the pay as well as the rations?—Yes.
 1410. What would you do with the money?—To buy clothing.
 1411. Supposing the Government gave you enough clothing—if you had plenty of beef, plenty of flour, and plenty of clothes, would you work as much as you are doing now without money?—We like money just the same as whitefellow. Supposing you hire to people you ask for an agreement.
 1412. Have you got any complaints to make?—Yes. We asked Captain Page for a hut. I followed him all along the garden, and asked him, "When are you going to put up my house." He would not answer me—he only walked along.
 1413. Is your house not a good house?—No; a bark hut.
 1414. Anything else?—Then we asked Mr. Strickland for ten palings, and Mr. Strickland told me, "I cannot give away the palings, because they belong to Captain Page."
 1415. What were you going to do with the palings?—A little fowl house.
 1416. Did he not give you them?—No. Mr. Strickland told me, "If I give away the palings Captain Page would be angry with me," because they wanted to put them along the garden to fence it round; and Mr. Strickland said, "How would you like it when Captain Page was angry with me." Mr. Strickland gave me some nails to please me.
 1417. Anything else?—When I got the toothache I laid on my bed for a week.
 1418. Did it last all that time?—Yes. Then I had to buy some painkiller myself, with my own money.
 1419. Did it cure it?—Yes.
 1420. What do you want principally—what do you complain of—are you not well treated?—We want Mr. Green back.
 1421. That is the whole affair?—Yes, because Mr. Green was managing the blacks before.
 1422. He was always kind to you before?—Yes, he said he was once a blackfellow himself.
 1423. How did he turn a white man?—I do not know. At that time when the paddock was on the flat we saw a blackfellow working to put up a fence. He had Mr. Green with him and Thomas.
 1424. They worked with the blackfellows to put the fence up?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Alfred Morgan further examined.

Alfred Morgan.
30th Sept. 1881.

1425. What do you want to say?—The time I went to Melbourne with Marcus Fergusson I had no money when I went down. I had no coach ticket, and when Fred. Simmons asked me for my ticket I had none to present to him. He told me that my fare was no more wanted down to Melbourne, and Mr. Mackay spoke to him.
 1426. He had you sent on?—Yes; he asked me whether I had any one to do for me in Melbourne. I told him I had not.
 1427. What are you complaining of?—What was I to do in Melbourne?
 1428. Did you ask for money?—Mr. Strickland knew very well I had to go to Melbourne. He told me I would see Captain Page in Melbourne. I told him Captain Page would not be in his office after four o'clock.
 1429. Why did you not ask him for the coach ticket?—He sent me a written note at the time I took the two boys. Mr. Strickland went down with me at the same time. He never asked me whether the children had any dinner or anything.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. F. T. Strickland further examined.

The Rev.
F. T. Strickland,
30th Sept. 1881.

1430. Can you inform us how many habitable dwellings there are in the station?—[*The witness referred to a book.*]—Twenty-one buildings. I believe nineteen are habitable.
 1431. I mean occupied?—There are twenty-one occupied, but two are bad.
 1432. You consider there are only two unfit for habitation?—Yes.
 1433. How do you distribute the flannel to them?—Mrs. Strickland keeps all those draperies. I never touch them. She and my daughter distribute them. If you will allow me to call them I will do so.

Mrs. Strickland was called in.

1434. (*To Mrs. Strickland.*)—We want to know how you distribute the flannel for the use of the men and their wives. Do you give it in the piece?—No; cut off so many yards for a woman—two yards and a half for the women's vests—five yards for the men's shirts.
 1435. Do you supply the wives with the flannel intended for the husband?—I give it to the wives.

1436. They are supposed to make their husbands' flannels. How often do you give to them?—That is given every June; but they very frequently come for it between—say perhaps three or four months afterwards. I do not know what they do with it.

1437. Do you keep account of it?—Yes, always; who get it, and for what purpose.

1438. We have had here that some five out of the six say they never got a flannel except what they got from their wives, which was made out of their wives' petticoats?—They always have it when they ask for it. If they do not ask for it, I do not know when they want it.

1439. They complain that they have to get their flannels out of their wives' petticoats?—They had 280 yards distributed among them this year.

1440. Do you give out the men's clothing?—Yes.

1441. How often do you distribute their clothing?—Yearly distribution—generally in the early part of July or the latter end of June, and at any other time they want it. Of course, if they came two months afterwards, I should refuse it—but any other time.

1442. If they came every four months, would you give it to them?—Yes, if it is in the store.

1443. Are you without those articles?—We are now without flannel, but we had a larger quantity supplied to the station, and they had it earlier than usual, and it is all distributed.

1444. Do you consider they got enough to keep them going?—I am sure they do.

1445. How do you account for a person getting a suit of clothes now and in three months coming for another?—Perhaps an accident.

1446. Do you make enquiries?—Yes, I look at the book to see.

1447. You do not give it except they give you a satisfactory reason?—No.

1448. Have you any reason to think that they sell part of their clothes?—I would not like to say what I think. I saw four pairs of trousers belonging to one man, hanging on the fence. He had not sold his, evidently.

1449. Do they get shoes and socks?—Of course, socks whenever they ask for them. They get shoes twice a year—in January and June.

1450. You deal with the women in the same way. If they give any reasonable excuse for asking for it you give them?—Yes, if we have it in the store, always.

1451. Do you get sufficient supply whenever you require it?—I think so.

1452. When you run out do you send down for more?—Yes. They have two winter dresses and two summer dresses.

1453. Do they get sufficient blankets?—Each family has one pair of blankets every year. Barak has had two pairs, Punch has had two pairs, Morgan has had two pairs and a half because he had a sick child.

1454. Do you ever visit them?—Yes.

1455. Often?—Yes, often; my daughters too.

1456. Do you see they keep their places tidy?—Mr. Strickland does that.

1457. Do you visit the women when they are sick?—Yes, sometimes three or four times a day, either I or my daughters. They make them soup and anything else they can think of.

1458. (*To Mr. Strickland.*)—You never refuse to supply them with medicine?—Never refuse them night or day.

1459. Do you show them how they ought to take it?—Yes—not invariably. The medicine might be taken half to-night and half to-morrow morning. I could not be there early in the morning, but they understand how to take it.

1460. (*To Mrs. Strickland.*)—It has been reported here to-day that a girl died in the schoolroom some time ago, and that she was allowed to get very dirty and full of vermin, and no attention was paid to her?—We had been only here three weeks at the time.

1461. Is it a fact?—It is a base concoction.

1462. Did you see the girl?—I used to be in and out constantly with her—my daughter and my servant saw her there in a bad state, but not through my inattention.

1463. There was nothing of the kind?—I do not say her head was not sore, but it was not through my neglect.

[*The Shorthand Writer read the note previously referred to.*]

1464. Is it a fact she was buried in the wincey dress?—I think she was. I did not know the custom of the aborigines; that part of the letter may be true.

1465. This has come before the other Board?—Yes.

1466. What Board was that?—

Mr. Strickland.—This letter, or a similar letter, was sent to the Aboriginal Board by myself; an official enquiry was made into it nearly three years ago.

1467. There is no truth in the statement that she was fly-blown after she died?—

Mr. Strickland.—Not the slightest. My servant saw her constantly, and she was examined by the Board.

1468. You had attended to this girl as often as you considered it necessary?—Yes, constantly.

1469. She was in bed when you arrived on the station?—Yes, in a much smaller room, where there were three beds, and I moved her from that.

1470. She never recovered sufficiently to get up before she died?—No, she was rather crazy.

1471. You consider that every attention necessary was given her?—Yes, all that she could take was given her. Sometimes she was so vexed at being asked to take anything that she would throw them out on the floor. That made me say she was a little crazy.

1472. (*To Mr. Strickland.*)—Can you inform us what the men pay for their meat?—The butcher's contract with the station was threepence a pound.

1473. Have you any idea what the men pay?—They deal with the butcher themselves.

1474. Not one of them can tell?—They have bills.

1475. They say they have no bills?—I have seen him hand them their bills many a time. They have said he charged them fourpence, and he said they will not take any but the superior price. The butcher's price for the station has been at the rate of 16s. the hundred pounds, but if I was to interfere

The Rev. F. T. Strickland, continued, 30th Sept. 1881. with those men they would tell me to mind my own business. They will not be dictated to as to what they pay. As to the girl being maggot-blown, I should think it very possible that, at that period of the year, flies might have blown in her, but I do not say they did.

Mrs. Strickland.—She had a blue veil over her head and face.

1476. (*To Mr. Strickland.*)—What is the amount of rations they get—how many pounds of flour?—Ten pounds a man and woman; those children over ten years of age, full rations; under ten, half rations.

1477. That is the regulation of the Board?—Yes.

1478. What about the sugar?—They have two pounds of sugar each over ten years—half for children—one pound over two and under ten years.

1479. Does a woman have as much as a man?—Yes.

1480. How much tea?—Four ounces each adult; under ten and over two years, half.

1481. If they run short, which they all say they do, about Thursday—if they come to you, do you give them anything?—A pannikin of sugar, just to carry them over; sometimes they have been remonstrated with for having so much and yet using it. In reference to the fencing and other improvements on the station, I may say that in the Royal Report of 1877 the Government were strongly urged to dispose of the station, and transfer the aborigines to other stations more congenial with their constitutions. Pending the reply of the Board, I suspended any expense and outlay until the last few months, when several new houses were ordered to be erected, and other improvements to be made. Such operations were at once stopped when the present Board of Enquiry was appointed. It has been remarked that I do not make myself more sociable and familiar with the people of the station. In reply, I have to say that from the beginning of my duties here I have treated all with uniform kindness and fatherly advice. Too much familiarity would materially militate against the reasonable discipline necessary for the well-being of all concerned. As to religious instruction, when I have found it necessary to reprove, or to refuse any unreasonable request, the consequence has almost invariably been the non-attendance of the individual and as many others as could be influenced.

1482. Have you anything more to add?—Nothing more.

1483. There is a man Briggs here. He said he was put from the station some time ago by Captain Pago?—It is true.

1484. He is a bad character?—Very refractory.

1485. He does not stop on the station?—No.

1486. Is his brother as bad a character?—There are two brothers. The married one is the worst.

1487. The one who was driven off the station is the better of the two?—He is the better of the two. He is the dancing master of the place; he is a great swell. It is always the same thing, the beef is not fat enough, or it is too fat. One of the men said, "I am not going to have meat like this, this is bone." I said, "How many pounds have you?" He said, "Twelve pounds." He was only charged for eight, because there was four pounds of bone. He said he would not eat it.

1488. When you kill meat, what do you charge them?—Twopence or twopence-halfpenny.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned.

WEDNESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER 1881.

Present:

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair;

Mrs. Bon,
Thos. Armstrong, Esq., J.P.,
J. Kerr, Esq.,
D. McNab, Esq.,

T. Embling, Esq., M.D., J.P.,
J. C. Steel, Esq., J. P.,
G. De Pury, Esq., J.P.,
J. L. Dow, Esq., M.L.A.

The Reverend Robert Hamilton examined.

The Reverend
Robert Hamilton,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1489. *By the Board.*—Do you know the Coranderk station?—Yes. I have known it since before it was formed. I used to visit the blacks when they were wandering.

1490. You have been in the habit of visiting it often?—I have been in the habit of visiting as long as Mr. Green was manager, and during the time of Mr. Stähle, who succeeded him.

1491. Have you been there recently?—Not since Mr. Stähle was there.

1492. How long ago is that?—About five years.

1493. Have you seen any of the aborigines since?—Frequently. In Melbourne, sometimes in the streets, sometimes in the hospital, sometimes at my own house.

1494. What condition have you found them in?—Sometimes I have found the men going away to other parts of the colony for employment, but always poor—generally calling for money to help them—having no money to pay for their lodgings, or carry them to their destination.

1495. Were they well clad?—Pretty fairly clad; those who were young and vigorous, and who were getting regular employment.

1496. Do you think from their appearance they were well fed?—In some cases they appeared to be so.

1497. What was the cause of their going to the hospital?—Sickness—lung disease; I think chiefly lung disease.

1498. Of course you cannot say from your own knowledge of the station during the last five years?—Not from personal visiting.

1499. You spoke of lung disease—that is a disease which is peculiarly fatal to the blacks in this country?—Yes.

1500. It does not belong to the locality, but to the blacks in Victoria?—I believe not; I can only speak from hearsay in that matter.

1501. You can speak from the reports which are printed here?—Yes.

1502. Do you think a low swampy ground with a humid atmosphere would be beneficial to the blacks or conducive to the disease?—I would not think it at all beneficial to the disease; but I think there are other causes as well as the moist climate. I have seen, in the winter time, the children running about without shoes and stockings. From the very first time I have been acquainted with them on the station, in the coldest weather they were running about with bare feet and legs. They require training to know how to take care of their health.

1503. In what state did you find the child Betsy Mickie, who called at your house some months ago?—That was in the middle of winter. She seemed very insufficiently clad—only a light thin outer piece of raiment. She looked altogether to be clad in a way not suited to the season.

1504. In what state was she with regard to cleanliness?—I believe her head was not clean.

1505. She had vermin in her head?—Yes.

1506. What age was she?—About twelve years of age, I should think.

1507. What disease was she suffering from?—From ophthalmia.

1508. Bad eyes?—Bad eyes; she came down for medical treatment. She was extremely frightened at the idea of being left by her mother.

1509. She objected to being left for medical treatment?—She was very averse to separation from her mother and being left with strangers.

1510. Was that the reason she was at your house?—I believe it was; and till she should be properly examined by the doctor.

1511. She did not object to go back to the station?—She went back soon after.

1512. Their antipathy to go to other institutions did not include Coranderrk?—She had no objection to go to Coranderrk; she did not wish to be left in town. I have found a very strong aversion on the part of the aborigines at Coranderrk to be brought to the hospital.

1513. Who brought her down?—She came down with her mother. Her mother was suffering from a tumor. She was advised to come down for medical treatment, and the child was ill with her eyes. She did not get admission; she came to me, and stayed all night at my house.

1514. Was she attended by a medical man?—No medical man called at my house.

1515. You think she did have medical attendance?—She was taken to see a medical man.

1516. I suppose you have had no experience of other blacks in other parts of the colony?—I have not visited the other stations.

1517. You do not know whether this lung disease is prevalent in other parts of the colony?—I do not know.

1518. From what you have seen of the sick in other hospitals, do you not consider a hospital erected on the station would be a desirable thing?—I think it would, if possible, because they come to the Melbourne hospital and see none of their own kindred, and do not hear their own tongue spoken. They regard themselves as isolated and lost. They see white people, who, although they may be very kind, yet are perfect strangers. I have been very much distressed, on visiting them for the purpose of imparting spiritual consolation, to find their minds so unsettled. I have found it extremely difficult to make any good impression on their minds. I think, as a general rule, the being brought to the Melbourne hospital is an aggravation of their trouble, and a hindrance to their restoration on account of the anxiety they feel.

[Mrs. Bon handed in the following letter:—

“Victorian Eye and Ear Hospital,
Melbourne, April 4th 1881.

This child—Betsy Michie—has been examined by Doctor Grey, and found necessary that she should attend once a week regularly.

(Sgd.) JOHN A. McKIE, Phar. Chemist.”

1519. Have you seen any of the other aborigines lately. You attended a little boy who was dying; what was he craving?—He was exceedingly distressed at being left alone by his father. His father had to have recourse to expedients in order that he might not know he left him. He was in the greatest distress at being left in the hospital.

1520. That was William Barak's son?—Yes.

1521. In all the cases you mention, the children appear to be very glad to get back to Coranderrk?—All glad to get back; and even the adults are afraid of dying away from the station. They like to die among their own friends.

1522. Do you think there is a place on the settlement suitable for a hospital?—I should think so. There might be a hospital very suitably erected there.

1523. Is there any ground high enough near the Badger creek?—It would require to be on high ground.

1524. Do you know the formation of the ground at all?—Yes.

1525. There is not much high ground about there, only just facing the road?—The whole township stands on an elevation.

1526. The half-caste element predominates at Coranderrk. Those half-caste girls expressed a desire to be allowed to go out to service. You have had one serving you for some time; does she make a good servant?—I have had one for a considerable number of years, licensed by the Board. We had considerable trouble for a good while to train her to be a perfect servant. There was always some defect that we were willing to put up with.

1527. Do you find her a good servant?—A thorough good servant now.

1528. Would that not be a good way of getting them absorbed in the population, instead of pauperising them on Coranderrk station?—I can only speak of my own experience that this case has proved very successful indeed. I do not doubt that others would make just as good servants if they were under good training, and taken into good families, as the one I have got. Still they have all a hankering for being allowed to live in one community.

1529. They like to visit their friends occasionally?—Yes.

1530. How long have you had this girl?—We have still got her. I think we have had her about five years.

1531. Is she as useful as a white girl?—Quite, and so faithful and honest that we don't exercise any restriction in the use of money. When she requires to pay for things about the house, she goes to the drawer and takes herself, from the purse, what is required.

The Teverer, d
Robert Hamilton,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1532. Is it your opinion they should be encouraged to go out to service?—It would depend so much upon the families to whom they went.

1533. If you could get them into respectable families?—I have no doubt they would do well.

1534. Have you found it more difficult to watch this girl than a white girl?—No, I think we have less trouble than we would have, as a general rule, with European girls. We find her very tractable and obedient, and attentive to any rules laid down for her guidance. We do not restrict her too much with regard to coming in at night, when she goes out to meetings.

1535. I did not know they were allowed to go out to service?—The Board gives them license when they are applied for.

The witness withdrew.

Henry Jennings examined.

Henry Jennings,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1536. *By the Board.*—Are you a member of the Aboriginal Board?—I am.

1537. Have you been a member of it long?—From its very commencement.

1538. How long?—About nineteen years or twenty years.

1539. You are acquainted with all the management and regulations?—Yes; I have endeavored to make myself acquainted with them.

1540. Do you know the Coranderk station?—I have been there several times.

1541. Have you been there recently?—I think about two years ago was the last time.

1542. Is that the only time?—I have been several times.

1543. When were you there first—how long ago?—I could not tell. About two years ago.

1544. You have not been there during the last two years?—No.

1545. What condition was the station in two years ago, when you visited it; what was the general appearance of the station itself?—We have been in such an unsettled state for some years, it is rather difficult to say. At this time they were wanting some new huts, which were then being built.

1546. Was the appearance better or worse than it was years before?—On the whole, the station has improved continually from time to time.

1547. Did the aborigines seem satisfied when you were there?—I ought to have had notice to get prepared. I went with Mr. Curr to investigate some complaints that were made.

1548. Made to the Board?—Yes.

1549. Against the local management?—No; there is a report in the office of the visit.

1550. How is it your name does not appear as having visited the place in that year, perhaps you are making a mistake?—I mention the fact that I did go.

1551. Did you go up with Mr. Curr?—I went up with Mr. Curr.

1552. The Scab Inspector?—Yes.

1553. Is he a member of the Board?—He is a member of the Board. Our report will appear among the papers; that will be the best thing to go by.

1554. Did you go amongst them familiarly, and talk to the blacks?—Yes; I used to visit every hut when I went there.

1555. Were they pretty clean?—Yes, I think they were, except what we call the old blacks, they were living in their bush fashion.

1556. Had they mia-mias or huts?—What they call the original blacks were living in mia-mias of their own.

1557. Had they no cottages?—No; I think there was one lot.

1558. Was that only two years ago?—I cannot say; I am not certain.

1559. They were living in mia-mias in preference to cottages?—Yes; they would not live in cottages.

1560. How often does the Board meet—the Aboriginal Board?—Every month, that is, regularly; sometimes oftener.

1561. Were there any complaints made about want of clothing when you were up there?—Not at that time; there was a time when they did.

1562. Where does the Aboriginal Board meet?—At the office in Temple Court.

1563. How long have you met there?—I cannot tell from memory—several years.

1564. There are two or three years in which rent is mentioned, are you paying rent for the building now which before you had for nothing?—I could not tell from memory.

1565. By what authority does the Board exist?—A special Commission.

1566. An Act of Parliament?—The Act of Parliament revived them, but they were in existence before that.

1567. The first Bill was passed in 1861 or 1862. This is a Bill to provide for the protection and management of the natives of Victoria, accompanied by regulations. This is 1869. I wanted to know what were the powers of the Board, and the officers of the Board; under that Act, what are the powers you possess as a Board?—It speaks for itself. But we were in existence before this.

1568. That is the Act you are under now?—Yes.

1569. I want to find out exactly the position of the Board in regard to the Act and in regard to the blacks under that Act, because we have some regulations which are really the Act. There was mention made just now by Mr. Hamilton that there was difficulty in hiring out servants from the Coranderk station, will you be kind enough to show me any regulation or clause which authorizes anybody to prevent their going out after a certain age; have you the power to prevent them?—Yes, that clause, "Every aboriginal native of Australia and every aboriginal half-caste or child of a half-caste, such half-caste or child habitually associating and living with aboriginals, shall be deemed to be an aboriginal within the meaning of this Act."

1570. What is the Act controlling the half-caste or aboriginal; where is the clause affecting their liberty?—There is a clause.

1571. The system of passes has obtained, where is the word "pass" in the Act?—Not "pass," "certificate."

1572. What does the certificate refer to?—To allow aborigines to work on their own terms—*Henry Jennings, continued, 2nd Nov. 1881.*
 “For prescribing the terms on which contracts for and on behalf of aborigines may be made with Europeans, and upon which certificates may be granted to aborigines who may be able and willing to earn a living by their own exertions.” That is one of the regulations.

1573. I am not referring to their liberty of entering into service, but to the word “pass”?—We never have the word “pass.”

1574. Is a black permitted to leave the station without a pass?—Yes, we do not attempt to control them.

1575. Have they been refused to be allowed to go?—I do not remember that they have.

1576. If any one applied to get a servant, a young girl, into a respectable family would you grant permission for her to go?—No, we would not.

1577. You are in the place of a parent to children?—Yes.

1578. For those out of childhood, what power have you to require them to have a pass?—I am looking for the clause.

1579. Do you remember “Tommy Mickie,” the chief of the Broken River tribe?—I know very few of the aborigines personally.

1580. Do you know “Punch”—that is the same man?—Yes.

1581. Did he come down to you one winter’s day and ask you to give him a pair of boots in Melbourne?—He might have done; I fancy he did.

1582. Did you give him a pair?—I think not.

1583. What boots had he on his feet?—I do not remember.

1584. What clothing had he on?—I do not remember.

1585. Did you ask what right he had to come to you without a pass?—I do not remember.

1586. Supposing you did so, did you not assert a right to demand a pass at his hands, and yet you find the word “pass” is not mentioned. Did you give any reason why you would not give him boots?—I was not going to interfere. I knew they were properly looked after at the station. I considered him a very troublesome man; I would not encourage him in it.

1587. Was it right to carry punishment so far as to endanger his health?—I did not believe his health was in danger.

1588. There is one thing in this Royal Commission which you lose sight of altogether, the deep obligation we are under to the race?—I always felt the obligation we are under; the only reason I went on the Board was to do what I could for them.

1589. You were on the previous Board before this?—Yes, I have been a member of the Board since its first commencement.

1590. How many members of the Board usually attend?—Four or five generally.

1591. Are three of the members of the Board civil servants?—Two.

1592. Was not Mr. MacBain a member of the Board?—He was once; he resigned.

1593. Did he give any reason why he resigned?—There was a reason, but I forget now.

1594. I see you express regret at the resignation of Mr. MacBain?—It is so difficult to remember these things; it was something about the appointment of the superintendent, I think.

1595. Was it not about the number of civil servants on the Board?—He never gave that reason, that I remember.

1596. Perhaps you feel these duties too onerous to act upon the Board?—They are very trying.

1597. Mr. Ogilvie, in the Royal Commission says, “In fact, the working of the Board has been confined to three or four or five persons?—Yes. The same five?—About the same five, rarely six, one hour a month.” Is that about the time you give to this meeting?—It was very seldom only an hour; that might be a fair average, but sometimes we were longer than that.

1598. And sometimes shorter, perhaps?—Sometimes, but not very often.

1599. You think Coranderk is in a prosperous state at present?—I think it is in a very distracted state, and things cannot be prosperous when it is in that state.

1600. Who is to blame for that?—I think Mrs. Bon, to a certain extent.

1601. As a missionary enterprise, how has it succeeded?—It is not a missionary enterprise.

1602. Are they advancing in Christianity—how many members have been added to the church during the past ten years?—We do not interfere with that.

1603. You think the station of Coranderk is in a very distracted state, and that Mrs. Bon is somewhat to be blamed for it?—I am sure that Mrs. Bon has every good intention.

1604. How long has this discontent existed at Coranderk?—The last two or three years.

1605. Did Mr. Ogilvie ever complain of it as being distracted. This is what he says:—“You have spoken of the management of Coranderk and the state of discipline there”—this is 1877—“as being worse than that of any other station?—Yes. Which station is the highest as regards discipline and management; you have seen all?—Yes. Some frequently?—Yes; comparisons are odious, but if I select any, Mr. Hagenauer’s, without doubt. Which is the next worst to Coranderk?—The other station directly under the Board, Framlingham. Then the two stations managed by the Board have worse discipline and general management than any of the others?—Yes. To what do you attribute that?—Because in the one case you have laymen, and in the other missionaries, and the layman takes his office and holds it because of the salary, while the missionary’s principal object is to civilize, and works without reference to his pay. I am an instance of it. I daresay I have done a little good, but I am leaving the Aboriginal Board simply because I am getting a better billet.” That shows before Mrs. Bon went there at all, the station was in a thoroughly unsettled condition?—Yes. What I mean is, Coranderk being so near Melbourne, there are so many go there and visit and interfere that it makes the natives discontented. They think they are not well treated. I wish to withdraw my remarks about Mrs. Bon.

The witness withdrew.

William McCrea, Esq., M.B., examined.

1606. *By the Board.*—Do you know Coranderk?—I have visited it in 1876. I have not been there since. *William McCrea, Esq., M.B., 2nd Nov. 1881*

1607. Are you in the habit of seeing the aborigines from Coranderk in Melbourne?—When I was Chief Medical Officer I used to see them when they were sick. I used to call upon them and report upon them.

CORANDERRK.

William McCrea,
Esq., M. B.,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1608. You cannot speak from personal knowledge of the state of Coranderrk at present?—Not at present. I made a very close and accurate examination of it in 1876.

1609. Did you consider it a healthy place for the aborigines?—Certainly not in its condition then.

1610. What was the fault?—The fault was the construction of the houses—the manner in which they were built on the ground and the construction of the floors.—[*The witness read the following report:*—“4. The huts are thirty-two in number, and in their dimensions they range from 24 feet to 12 feet in length, from 18 to 8 feet in width, and from 5 to 8 feet high. There is a sufficient space separating each hut, and some of them have gardens fenced in and containing fruit trees at the back. Most of the huts have fowl-houses rudely constructed of bark, either in contact or in close proximity to them, and one man keeps two pigs, the smells from which are neither pleasant nor salutary. 5. There are a few closets of a common description, covering mere holes in the ground, scattered about irregularly over the establishment, insufficient in number for the wants and decency of the population. Even these are not always used, the superintendent stating that at night the children and some of the adults pass their excrement in the water channels in the street opposite their huts. 6. The construction of the huts is, in a sanitary point of view, the worst possible; the walls are of slab, paling, or bark, mostly the latter, with openings in them so numerous that they may fitly be compared to bird cages. The roofs are almost always bark, with openings nearly as numerous as in the walls; some of the natives have endeavored, by paper and bags, to cover the chinks and openings in the walls and roofs, but in most cases with little effect. The floors are of clay, and are damp even at this the driest season of the year, whilst in the winter the natives complain that the water rises to the surface of the floors after every shower of rain. 7. In wretched hovels like these it is no wonder the mortality is excessive. It appears by Mr. Ogilvie's report that in 1875, with a population of about 150 people, 31 deaths took place—one out of every five human beings in one year perishing from disease. This awful mortality was doubtless exceptional, an epidemic of measles having been prevalent in the early part of the year; but this epidemic prevailed all over the colony, causing a considerable increase in the general mortality; yet when the mortality of the whole colony, about 17 per 1,000, is compared with that of Coranderrk, the discrepancy is appalling, the latter amounting to 193 per 1,000, or, in other words, for every person out of the general population who died, 11 deaths occurred at Coranderrk. Two out of the 31 deaths were caused by measles directly, but four others from cold caught after measles; and 14 cases of pleuro-pneumonia and chest disease point but too surely to the draughty walls and roofs and to the damp floors of the huts as their cause. Persons attacked by such diseases have scarcely a chance of surviving in such hovels. Were an epidemic of scarlatina to invade the settlement, and they are liable to it at any moment, the remaining natives would be in danger of being swept away altogether. A very erroneous impression is generally prevalent regarding the power of natives to withstand the vicissitudes of weather; it is assumed, because in their aboriginal condition they were able, with little clothing, and under the mere shelter of a mia-mia, to resist the influence of severe cold and wet, that their dwellings should be very open. This is a great mistake; the altered conditions in which a comparative civilization places them render them much more obnoxious to changes of temperature than when they led a savage life; the circumstance of wearing clothing causes them to perspire more freely in exertion, and the exposure to draughts under these conditions renders them unusually liable to diseases consequent on suppressed perspiration, and peculiarly to diseases of the lungs. They themselves feel and complain bitterly of the effects of cold air, especially in the winter time, rushing through the crevices of their ill-constructed huts. Their sleeping accommodation is defective in space, from four to ten persons in some cases occupying a single hut, when there is barely cubic space sufficient to support the health of two. Their bedsteads are untidy constructions of sticks and bark, likely to engender vermin and to inculcate want of cleanliness and habits of self-respect in the occupants.”

1611. Was it your opinion that Coranderrk was not a suitable place for aborigines?—I expressed my opinion that it was not a suitable place. I said:—“1. The site is on the slope of a slightly elevated piece of ground, surrounded by mountains on three sides, with a fine stream of water on the fourth. Between the mountains and the establishment the ground is mostly low and covered with timber; in the winter season it is frequently flooded, and always damp and cold, the rainfall from the proximity of the neighboring mountains being always abundant. The natives complain greatly of the cold and wet in the winter, and I have no doubt that the situation of the establishment contributes not a little to the development of chest diseases.” This, I may tell you, was from information. I did not go over the whole ground. The place itself is high and well situated; but if there is water around it, it would be unsuitable.

1612. Do you consider the mortality arose from causes that were preventable?—Certainly.

1613. Would dry houses, good boots, warm flannels (especially for children), and good food tend to check anything of the kind?—Certainly.

1614. Have the management attended to your requests?—To a very slight extent.

1615. Have they in every respect neglected your requests?—Not in every respect. This is in reply to the Honorable the Chief Secretary:—“Since the date of that report, though two years and three months have elapsed, six only out of the thirty-two new huts have been built, and these have not been drained. Their walls have been lined with boards for six feet of the height only, and the roofs not lined with calico. Drains have been cut in front and behind the old huts, and the floors of these huts have been boarded, but no further improvements have been made in them.”

1616. Did you visit in 1879?—No.

1617. You got that information from their own report?—I got that information from their own report.

1618. Did they apply to Dr. Thomson for his opinion?—I have not heard of it.

1619. Do you know Mr. Le Soeuf thinks your opinion is very wrong?—“Dr. McCrea seems to have overlooked the fact that this fatal lung disease exists on all the other stations, though some of them are under entirely different conditions with regard to climate, drainage, &c. The Board differs with Dr. McCrea in his conclusion as to the cause of the excessive mortality. Experience has led the Board to think that it is not well to make the native cottages so air tight as he suggests.”

1620. Do you still hold that opinion—that preventable measures are within our reach?—Unquestionably.

1621. Do you not think many thousands of families would be glad to be allowed to live there?—Yes.

1622. Do you think the blacks are more subject to chest disease than whites?—Under the altered condition they are in now.

1623. Do you say that this place where the water oozes up is a fit place for them, where they are three parts surrounded with water, where the water that they water the hop ground with runs through the village; do you think that it is a fit place for people who are subject to chest diseases?—I objected to the swampy nature of the ground, but the site itself can be perfectly and entirely drained, and made as dry as any house in Melbourne.

1624. Could not cottages be built which would not be damp?—Yes.

1625. Do you not think that race was most foolishly placed?—I do not think a running stream would make the place damp at all, if it was properly drained. If those huts had been properly drained there would not be a particle of damp. I have stated already that my information with regard to the mists and swampy ground was obtained from other people, but I have stated that such a place would not be proper.

1626. The lung disease then is an Australian native disease?—Not at all. Any person subject to it living in those huts would get lung disease.

1627. These are two or three questions answered by Mr. Halliday in 1877 with reference to what he thought of Coranderrk as an aboriginal and sanitary station:—"In summer time faultless. Not suited to aborigines newly arrived from warmer places; those now there, however, have become acclimatized, and are not so subject to chest complaints as they were. By the avoidance of exposure and the wearing of warm clothing nearly all sickness might be avoided." Do you think that?—If I was living in that place and had the place properly drained, there would not be a nicer place in the colony.

1628. Do you think the blacks should be well fed with meat?—I do.

1629. And milk?—And milk. I think no expense should be spared with them.

1630. You would not keep them on the swamp?—No.

1631. You think if they have a liberal diet and plenty of warm clothing and plenty of good houses they would enjoy good health?—I think they would; but, at the same time, if the place is flooded in winter time it would not be healthy. I think the flats about Healesville are subject to much the same sort of thing, and the people there are healthy enough; and about the Yarra Flats it is the same.

The witness withdrew.

William Thomson, Esq., F.R.C.S., examined.

1632. *By the Board.*—Do you know the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station?—Yes, I have made a visit there.

1633. How long ago?—About a twentymonth.

1634. Was that the only visit?—Yes.

1635. Was it an official visit?—Yes, at the request of the Board for the protection of the aborigines.

1636. With reference to your opinion as to the health of the Aborigines and the climate, whether it is healthy or causes lung diseases or anything of the sort, will you give your own version?—I was asked more particularly to enquire into the cause of phthisis. I went with a view to investigate that subject more particularly. I found a great many in various stages of the disease; some of them in the very earliest stage. I followed those up, until they appeared finally at the Melbourne Hospital in a dying condition. I traced them up after death, and found them to be tubercular phthisis; but in tracing the history of the lung diseases at the station for some years back, I learned that there had been a great mortality from what was called pleuro-pneumonia. It appeared to me to indicate that some epidemic disease had passed along the place, but I could not learn the history of such an epidemic. Lately I found there had been an epidemic of measles, and, as pleuro-pneumonia is the particular cause of death in that form of fever, I found that the pleuro-pneumonia cases were the dregs or sequelæ of measles, or the fatal condition of the lungs in measles. That would not denote any special unhealthiness of site, because, among native tribes, when measles gets among them it is fatal, no matter what the climate is, as it was in Fiji. So we could not justly infer any rigour of the climate from that circumstance. Then with regard to phthisis, we found phthisis prevailing in all the other stations, even up in Queensland, and the natives all dying from that disease, no matter whether the climate was high or dry, or low and marshy, I thought there might be some other cause at work. What that cause may be is a good deal in the speculative state, but my notion is that the only thing is contagion. That is the theory of phthisis that is rapidly growing among pathologists at home. They suppose that there are some germs or organisms, whether animal or vegetable I do not exactly know, that, multiplying in the lungs, destroy the tissue. It appeared to me that this would better account for it than the condition of the inhabitants at Coranderrk, as to the food, clothing, or locality, or houses that they live in, because it would be invariably acting as a factor of the disease in all climates and all localities. There was one case mentioned to me that I enquired particularly into, of a very healthy young woman at Coranderrk, about eighteen or twenty, who got a present of left-off clothing from a lady who had gone up into that part of the country and died of consumption. She put it on, and within a very few months after that she died of phthisis.

1637. How long is that ago?—Four or five years ago. The case was mentioned to me. I cannot authenticate it, but it was mentioned to me on very good authority. I saw several of the cases there who were in a position to catch contagion if such were the cause of it, because some in the second and third stage of the disease were lying in the cottage and expectorating on the floor, and allowing the expectoration to dry on the floor. I pointed out that no pains seemed to be taken to clear this away. Lying there and drying, it would be blown about and be breathed by those who came in contact with it. There was quite sufficient in that to indicate the cause of consumption, on the supposition that the disease would be of a contagious nature.

1638. Are you acquainted with any other stations?—No.

1639. Were you acquainted with the movements of the blacks before they were settled down in stations at all?—No; no personal knowledge. I have heard a good deal of them.

1640. Do you consider housing them is healthier than allowing them to live in mia-mias?—I gave to the Board an outline of what my report would be, and I delayed furnishing the report, which, in fact, I have never yet sent in, until I had followed up some of the cases at the Melbourne Hospital; but in that report I pointed out that they were much more liable to phthisis while housed in such places as I saw than they would in their native condition.

William McCrea,
Esq., M.B.,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

W. Thomson,
Esq., F.R.C.S.,
2nd Nov. 1881.

W. Thomson,
Esq., F.R.C.S.,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1641. You went into the houses?—Yes.
1642. What sort of places were they?—Some of them were comfortable, clean, and tidy—very little ventilation in those; and some were in the rudest possible form, mere slab huts. The people would have been very much better off if they had been in the open air.
1643. Did they look as if they had good supervision over them?—I could not say it was good supervision when a sick man was lying on the bed and spitting on the floor, and it was allowed to dry up.
1644. Measles is very fatal in bringing on consumption, is it not?—Measles is very fatal in bringing on pleuro-pneumonia, but I do not know that it will bring on true consumption.
1645. If they were living without flannel, would they not be much more subject to consumption?—I do not know that it would have much effect.
1646. If they have a small allowance of meat, no milk, no vegetables?—If they are not in health they will be impoverished, but I do not think it would induce phthisis.
1647. Would it facilitate it?—I do not think so. We find cases of consumption in the best built houses, where the patients are fed up, just as fatal and severe as in the meanest squalor in a large city.
1648. Would you require your patients to be extra careful after measles, to avoid cold?—Yes. Undoubtedly that is the danger. The great thing is to avoid chill.
1649. You said you did not think insufficiency of food or clothing was the cause of pulmonary consumption?—I do not think so; any mere starvation or insufficiency of clothing will never cause phthisis without the germs.
1650. It will not start it afresh?—It will not start it.
1651. Living in those huts as you saw them, poorly clad, without flannels, would that tend to help forward consumption?—Not from pleuro-pneumonia to phthisis. The only thing that would propagate phthisis was the carelessness of dealing with the sick and their discharges. They were neglected in that particular.
1652. Were there any domestic conveniences in the rooms?—None whatever.
1653. Would you think a little local hospital would be a good place to move them to?—It would be a good place to move a man to suffering from consumption rather than leave him in his own hut.
1654. You are aware they bring them down to Melbourne?—Yes.
1655. Would it not be better to have them up there?—Yes, far better.
1656. You are aware of the love they have for their own country?—Yes. I think it is a mistake to bring them down to Melbourne.
1657. Looking at the place as a whole, do you think it would be possible to make it very healthy with ordinary care?—I think so. It is what you may call a sub-alpine climate. At the foot of the hill you are apt to get fogs at one season of the year and cold winds at another.
1658. You think, under those circumstances, it would be a good place for them?—We generally consider a sub-alpine climate to be injurious to health. When I saw it, the atmosphere was very clear; but I learned that the fogs would hang around there, and I could understand it.
1659. You think it could be made a healthy place?—So far as a sub-alpine place can be made healthy. I recommended, in my report, that the blacks would be much healthier if they were in some plain, such as they would choose for their own village if they were free.
1660. Suppose they have a firm determination not to move, would you then move them?—If they selected it, I would let them have their choice.
1661. Would not moving them from the place they love be the means of practically killing them off?—Blacks are very liable to home-sickness.
1662. In fact, it would be an act of cruelty to drive them away against their inclination?—Yes.
1663. You are aware of the enormous wrong we have done those blacks in taking away their country?—Yes.
1664. Under those circumstances, would you rather not strain a point than endeavor to force them?—If they were unanimously of opinion, I would indulge them.
1665. Do you know the proportion of blacks on that station that were born there that belong to the district?—I understood that a number belonged to it; but I thought they had been collected from other parts of the country.
1666. Would it not be very cruel to bring blacks born in other parts of the country to that part of the country?—I think it would be wrong to force them to that place if they were not attached to it. I think, if you take blacks from other parts of the colony and force them to live there, that is just as cruel.
1667. We are dealing with the positive fact; there they are—being there, would it be detrimental to force them away?—If they have a home in the place, and become attached to the place, it would have the effect of giving them a longing after home; but that did not enter into my reckoning when I was inspecting the place.
1668. A great number of children died of the measles; would not diet have something to do with it?—I do not think diet had much to do with it; it is more exposure after measles. As to measles causing such mortality there, it was just as fatal in Fiji. As for consumption, you can draw no general rule as to the salubrity of any locality.
1669. You are aware an epidemic went all over the colonies?—Yes.
1670. But Coranderrk was the worst?—It might be owing to the rigour of the climate at that season of the year.
1671. *By Captain Page.*—You said the huts had not sufficient ventilation?—I saw some of the huts that seemed to have been pasted up.
1672. Dr. McCrea said there was too much ventilation?—I do not say any of the new huts have too much ventilation. Some of them have been pasted up to keep out the draughts. Some of the old huts were all ventilation together, and the inmates complained bitterly of them.
1673. *By the Board.*—You say they would be better living in the mia-mias than in the houses?—I think so.
1674. Did any of them speak to you about that particular fact about the mia-mias?—No, they did not.
1675. They said to me that their habits have been broken into by being compelled to wear our clothing and live in our houses, and that it had been fatal to them?—I had no conversation with any of them.

1676. *By Captain Page.*—You have not sent in your report yet?—No, I took it back to wait an opportunity of seeing the condition of the lungs in the dead-house of the hospital. Captain Page and I followed up cases in the wards of the hospital, and had made arrangements to be present at the *post mortem* examinations, but I never yet was afforded an opportunity to be present at a single case.

W. Thomson,
Esq., F.R.C.S.,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1677. *By the Board.*—Other things being equal, would not want of proper food tend to help disease?—Not pleuro-pneumonia nor phthisis. I do not think anything will cause pleuro-pneumonia except cold. I think even in a plethoric subject you see the pleuro-pneumonia as fatal as in the half starved.

1678. Can they be healthy without vegetables, milk, and butter?—No, not generally healthy; but that has nothing to do with measles or consumption.

1679. Is it not necessary for health that they should be supplied with those things?—Yes.

1680. *By the Board.*—Is that disease confined to Coranderrk; is it not to be found at the other places?—I mentioned already that phthisis was found in all climates.

1681-2. The locality does not foster the disease there?—I have said so.

1683. You would not recommend a patient to go to a low swampy place to live in if he had consumption?—No. I mentioned in my report that they would be better if left to their own choice, and left, as nearly as possible, to the condition they were in naturally, and I adhere to that opinion.

The witness withdrew.

William Armstrong, Esq., M.B., Ch.B., examined.

1684. *By the Board.*—Do you know anything of Coranderrk?—No, I have never been out at the station.

W. Armstrong,
Esq., M.B., Ch.B.,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1685. Do you know anything about the aborigines?—About a dozen of them have been patients under my care at the hospital.

1686. What was the nature of the diseases?—Mostly of the tubercular—a form of consumption. They were all pulmonary diseases.

1687. Is that kind of consumption general all over the colony or local?—No. The form of consumption of the natives differs somewhat from that which ordinary people suffer from; it contains a greater amount of the tubercular element.

1688. Have you attended any aborigines from any other part of the colony?—No.

1689. Have you any knowledge of any from any other part?—No.

1690. Do you think a low swampy place and a humid atmosphere would be liable to produce that disease?—They would be prejudicial circumstances.

1691. Would the want of a generous diet, the want of milk and vegetables, and short allowance of meat render them liable to attacks of the disease?—Yes, more especially the absence of fatty substances.

1692. Would it tend to keep them healthier if they were better fed?—It would; but there is the change of habits from roving about.

1693. Would a change once a year do them good?—Yes.

1694. You think they would be more healthy if they were allowed to roam about as of old?—I think so. Of course there is another thing, that is, not being pure blooded; the different strains of blood tend to deteriorate them and render them more liable to tubercular diseases.

1695. Have those that came under your notice been pure blacks?—No. One or two pure blacks, but principally half-castes.

1696. I suppose you find them drop off very quickly?—Yes, a sort of galloping consumption.

1697. Have you succeeded in curing any of them?—No; very often they are discharged from the hospital relieved. They have a great objection to stop there. They do not like to die there.

1698. They have a home-sickness?—Yes.

1699. Have you ever noticed whether they were well provided with clothing?—As far as I saw, they were. I never had occasion to tell the nurses to provide them with extra clothing.

1700. Do you remember the case of a woman going to you for medical advice with a baby in her arms?—Yes.

1701. What was she suffering from?—A tumor in the breast or under the arm.

1702. What were you afraid it would end in?—I forget.

1703. Did you see anything peculiar in her head?—I noticed there were several nits in her head.

1704. Were there no live ones?—I saw none.

1705. Did you ever remark that in any other patients—the whites?—Yes, and among the natives of other countries—such as the Jamaica blacks—they are very subject to body-lice.

1706. That is, when they have been brought under civilization?—Yes.

1707. Do you remember saying that the abscess might end in cancer?—I do not remember.

1708. What was wrong with the child?—Something wrong with the eyes.

1709. Is ophthalmia common among the blacks?—I cannot say.

1710. Would it not arise from want of proper feeding?—There is one form of ophthalmia that arises from that, what we call the strumous form.

1711. What condition was the child in, except the eyes?—Fairly nourished.

1712. You did not examine her?—No; but I had an opportunity of seeing her.

1713. Was the mother fairly healthy?—Yes.

1714. Do not you think that a hospital on the settlement would be desirable for those people, on account of their home-sickness?—Yes, I fancy they would be likely to improve more quickly and permanently.

The witness withdrew.

Rev. M. Macdonald examined.

1715. *By the Board.*—Have you ever been at Coranderrk?—Yes, I have been there on two different occasions; but my impressions of my last visit, which is about eighteen months ago, are rather indistinct at this time.

The Rev.
M. Macdonald,
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1716. When were you there first?—I think about five years ago, during the time Mr. Halliday was superintendent of the station—in 1876 or 1877.

The Rev.
M. Macdonald,
continued,
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1717. Did you examine the station?—On that first occasion we visited several of the cottages, and conversed with the people.

1718. What condition did you find the cottages in?—Some of them were in a wretched state at that time. We visited the school more particularly.

1719. What was wrong with the huts?—They seemed to be very uncomfortable.

1720. Were they closed in—were there too many holes for ventilation?—I cannot speak with such distinctness now.

1721. Were they dirty?—Certainly some of them were. On this last visit to Coranderrk, perhaps I was unconsciously comparing them with the state of the huts at Ramahyuck, with which I am more conversant. I am scarcely a disinterested witness, as I am officially connected with the station at Ramahyuck. I am of opinion that the proper system with the blacks is to have them under missionary superintendence. I am of opinion that the best thing the friends of the blacks could do would be to put them under the care of Mr. Hagenauer.

1722. With reference to Coranderrk, what was the condition, if you can remember, of the aboriginals on your first visit—did they look healthy, and were they well clad?—They seemed to be pretty much so. I remember one house into which we went, and the woman of the house seemed to be sickly. Then there were some of the old people—I think king Billy, with his two wives. He was bed-ridden. The place was fairly clean.

1723. In a general way did they seem healthy and in good condition—well nourished?—I thought so.

1724. And well clothed?—Yes. I cannot remember very distinctly.

1725. At the last time were they different?—We went, I think, first of all, to the school, and examined the children. I was very much pleased indeed. I thought the schoolhouse was insufficient. The schoolroom is far too small for the children. They were very crowded. The accommodation was utterly insufficient. I remember going into a cottage near the school, which seemed to be, on the whole, very tidy. Then we went into another cottage upon the upper side of the road, and the woman of the house seemed to be very ill, and one of the children also. Altogether, the appearance of things was not very encouraging. The case that impressed me most was that of the poor man who was lying on a wretched pallet in a wretched hut on the lower side of that road. He was all alone with an old man who was taking care of him. The Rev. Mr. Mackie was with us. He examined something in a dish, and asked if that was the man's food. It seemed to be cold cabbage, or something of that kind. That impressed me as a very wretched case.

1726. Did you stay long there?—Only a few hours.

1727. Did you meet many cases of sickness?—That case and another case of an older man, I think, in a cottage on the road, at right angles going up towards the kiln.

1728. What was wrong with him?—I do not remember just now.

1729. Did he appear to be dying?—He seemed to be very ill.

1730. Had he any complaints to make?—Yes, he had complaints. I do not remember distinctly what it was. It is more the general impression I have of the man and his condition.

1731. Was the general appearance of the whole place better or worse than the first time?—I should say the general appearance was not better than the previous visit. On the previous visit there was an appearance of more discipline than on the last visit.

1732. It was about the same time as the Royal Commission visited there?—I think rather before it.

1733. There were no complaints made by the blacks on your first visit, as to want of food or medical comforts?—No, there was nothing of that kind.

1734. On the second visit were there any?—There were general complaints made, but I cannot remember just now distinctly any particular complaint that was made.

1735. In your experience of the other stations is it a common thing for blacks to make complaints, or do they always seem satisfied?—The station I know best is Ramahyuck. I know Lake Tyers. I have also visited Framlingham. At none of those stations have I heard complaints made.

1736. Did you not think the people have just cause for complaining?—I considered that, as compared with those other stations, things were not in a satisfactory state. I did not wonder the people complained.

1737. Did you see anything being done to ameliorate their sufferings?—No.

1738. You saw nothing to induce you to suppose the superintendent and matron were attending them?—I would not put my answer so strongly as to say they were not attending them. I would not say there was any positive evidence of neglect. I certainly felt that, with regard to this poor man, he ought to be in a hospital, in some cottage set apart for sick people, with a nurse in attendance. It seemed to me to be a want in Coranderrk that there is no provision for the sick. There is no cottage into which they could be brought and attended.

1739. Are chest diseases common among the blacks?—Yes.

1740. Do you remember how many of those sick people agreed to our suggestion to go to the hospital when we found them lying in that state?—No, I do not remember how many.

1741. Do I understand that you visited Coranderrk in company with Mrs. Bon?—Yes.

1742. Was there an absence of comfortable furniture?—I should say so, in some of the cottages.

1743. What kind of bedding had they?—The bedding I remember most distinctly was the bedding of the poor man to whom I have just referred, and it seemed to be very poor. I felt that, from my connection with another station, I ought not to pry very closely into what I saw there.

1744. The impression on your mind was not pleasant?—It was not.

1745. Are all the black children on Ramahyuck baptized?—Yes, they are.

1746. And Lake Tyers?—Yes.

1747. And the adults also?—Yes, some of those who have been recently brought in.

1748. I suppose they are church members?—Yes. Some of them are in full communion with the church, and all are under Christian instruction.

1749. Did you notice Framlingham much?—At Framlingham I spent just about three hours of the day. They appeared to be comfortable there—tolerably comfortable.

1750. What sort of position is this Framlingham—what sort of site is it—is it dry and high?—It stands upon the bank of the River Hopkins. It stands on a very high bank, just where the river takes a sudden sweep round. I think the situation is good.

1751. What do you think of Coranderrk as a situation for blacks who are subject to pulmonary diseases?—It seems to me that the village is not in a good situation; it is too low. But the day was not a good one.

1752. What month of the year?—May.

1753. Was it early in the morning?—Afternoon.

1754. Do you know whether Ramahyuck is subject to fogs, and that kind of thing, rising from the river?—No, I do not think it is. I would not say it is altogether free from fogs, but it stands pretty high above the lake.

1755. Taking a passing view of the little township, is your impression favorable to blacks there. Would you think it proper to remove them if they objected to be removed?—My own opinion is that the best thing is to put them under missionary superintendence; and I think Coranderrk is too near Melbourne.

1756. Why?—For various reasons. One reason is this: I think that the people have too many facilities for coming down to Melbourne with complaints of one kind or other.

1757. If they did not exist, they would have no cause?—What I think is that it is almost impossible for anyone to maintain authority unless the blacks feel he is supreme. They are so constituted that they cannot live except under a paternal government.

1758. Do you think that it is injurious for them to be so near town because when they have a little grievance they are so near persons to whom they can come?—Not so much with regard to their having friends to whom they come, but they come to the Aboriginal Board and the inspector.

1759. Have they not had occasion to do so?—I do not deny that they may have had occasion to do so.

1760. In that case, is it not justifiable?—Perhaps so.

1761. Do you think they should have no court of appeal beyond the inspector, even if they had causes of complaint?—No.

1762. What do you base your parental authority upon, kindness or law?—Kindness and firmness. A person should be able to establish his ascendancy over them by the moral force of his own character.

1763. You are aware that this Act gives the Board an extremely limited authority?—Yes.

1764. You think it would be better to throw the law aside and let the moral character of the man be the ruling power?—I think we want a superintendent who can exercise authority over them by his own moral ascendancy.

1765. Do you think a number of blacks can be managed at an easy distance from Melbourne, where people are continually visiting them—can a person manage them and not receive continual complaints—do you think it is possible?—Almost impossible; and, moreover, I think it is a bad thing for all the stations that people visit them in large numbers.

1766. Does not a great deal depend upon the manager?—A great deal.

1767. Seeing that the mortality is as great, and in some instances greater, at the other stations than it is at Coranderrk, would you think it kindness to drive those people away from Coranderrk, whether they want to go or not?—I was not aware that the mortality was greater at the other stations.

1768. Even if that were not the case, would it not be an act of cruelty to drive the people away from the place they have got to love?—Yes, I would give great consideration to those feelings.

1769. Would you sign a petition to the House, entreating the House to pass a Bill giving authority to the Board, or any party under the orders of the Board, to move the blacks by compulsion from a place to which they were attached?—I should be slow to sign such a petition.

1770. Have you read the Act?—Not recently.

1771. If you thought the place was quite unfit for them, as regards damp and wet, you would sacrifice their feelings in such a case?—I think it would be quite possible to induce them to fall in with reasonable persuasion.

1772. Supposing it were impossible, would you let them remain?—Rather than let them die, I think I would take them away.

1773. Have you found any difficulty in managing them?—No. There have been cases in which they have not been so ready to fall in with the views of the manager as he could wish, but he has always succeeded in getting his own way at the last without forcing them.

1774. Given a number of quadroons and half-castes, would it be well to let them take situations?—It depends very much indeed upon the character of the persons. There are half-castes who, I think, might safely be sent abroad among the population, but very few. Most of them, as far as my knowledge goes, are weak in moral character. In regard to females especially, I should be very much afraid.

1775. Have you seen the experiment tried?—The only case I have seen tried is in the house of Mr. Hamilton.

1776. She has done very well?—Yes.

1777. You would require discriminating as to what family they should be sent to?—Yes.

1778. Supposing on Ramahyuck a young girl of twenty wished to go away and earn her own living, would you not allow her to go?—There have been such cases, but they still regard the station as their home. They like to return to it again. The couple we have now in the orphan house left the station and went into service at Stratford, but they asked to be allowed to come back to the station, and are now in charge of the orphanage.

1779. Suppose you do not draw a strict line, you deal gently with them in all cases?—Yes.

1780. Is it not better to allow them to go out, than perpetuate a race of paupers?—If care is taken to select proper guardians it would be better, and always having respect to the character of the individuals themselves, because some of them are much stronger than others.

1781. By drafting off half-castes and quadroons, and keeping the station for pure-blooded blacks, would not that be the best and most humane plan?—I think it would.

1782. Do you notice in the other stations an alteration of color in the blacks; are they becoming more white?—My impression is that there is more white color at Coranderrk than at the other stations.

The Rev.
M. Macdonald,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1783. Are you aware of this fact, that the evidence of the Royal Commission goes to this effect—that the people of Coranderrk are a virtuous people, and insinuations of prostitution are delusions?—I am aware that some of those quadroons or half-castes, now living at Coranderrk, were brought from other parts of the country—not born there.

1784. As to the Maloga mission, there the climate is very salubrious; we read of seven deaths and four births?—Yes.

1785. As to the morality, I only ask what has come under your observation in regard to Coranderrk?—Nothing in the way of prostitution. I may be permitted to add that my impression is, that everything would depend upon having a properly qualified person to act as superintendent.

1786. You think it is necessary to have a Christian man?—I do; a Christian gentleman in whose kindness they have confidence, and who has, at the same time, such qualities as the Moravian missionaries, who have given their attention to the work.

1787. Do the missionaries go among the people?—Very freely; they mix with the people.

1788. *By Captain Page.*—Is it not a different class of people at Lake Tyers?—Yes; they are more recently gathered in.

1789. They are all blacks?—Yes, of course. At Lake Tyers they are principally a tribe that has been gathered in not long ago.

1790. You know Mr. Hagenauer's opinion upon the subject of the management of Coranderrk?—Mr. Hagenauer has given me his views upon that in confidence. I do not know that I should state it in public.

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Harriet Wylie examined.

Mrs. H. Wylie,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1791. *By the Board.*—What are you?—Matron of the Eye and Ear Hospital.

1792. Do you know anything about the aboriginal station at Coranderrk?—No, I have never been there.

1793. Do you know anything about the aboriginals themselves?—Nothing more than having them brought occasionally to the hospital.

1794. Do you often have them?—Not often; we never have them long, because they will not stay. We had a girl brought some time ago, and the girl would not stop. She had sore eyes.

1795. Have you seen any of the aboriginals from Coranderrk at the Eye and Ear Hospital?—One girl lately.

1796. What was she suffering from?—From pustules on the eyes.

1797. Was she agreeable to go as an in-patient?—No, she screamed dreadfully; she would not come in.

1798. What did I (*Mrs. Bon*) do?—You promised to take her to the Exhibition and bring her a large doll, but that was no use.

1799. Who prescribed for her?—Dr. Gray.

1800. What did he give her?—Lotion and medicine. He said she would be much better at the station than in the town, because town did not agree with her.

1801. And the fretting?—Yes.

1802. How was she clad?—I recollect getting a parcel of inside clothing that was left with us; I never saw such clothing, one garment particularly.

1803. What was that like?—A small bag of calico, and sewed together, no shape, and as black as that—*[pointing to the fireplace]*.

1804. What age was the child?—She looked to be seven or eight years old.

1805. Was her mother with her?—Yes, but she left her there for a little while and came back with the child in her arms.

1806. Was she old enough to be out of the supervision of her mother?—She would not stop away from her mother. The clothes were handed to me; thinking the child would come in, I took the clothes up stairs.

1807. What had she on?—I did not undress her; she looked poorly clad.

1808. Was it calico?—I think it was a stuff dress.

1809. She gave the idea of being poorly clad?—Yes; my idea was that if she had a few of the clothes at the Royal Park it would have been much better.

1810. Do you remember anything particular about her head?—It was rather dirty.

1811. You would have had an unpleasant job to clean her before admitting her?—We would have had to give her a bath first.

1812. Did she stay?—No; she was there about two hours.

1813. You did not put her through any process of cleaning?—No; she cried all the time; we tried to pacify her.

1814. You think the orphans at the Royal Park are better off?—Yes.

1815. You do not find them so filthy?—No.

1816. That is the only case you had?—We had a boy, but it is a good while ago; I do not remember anything about him.

1817. Did she look well nourished?—She looked fat; I did not ask the child any questions.

1818. Did not look as if she were starved?—No.

1819. What induced the doctor to prescribe her tonic?—Because very often these eyes come from weakness of the constitution.

1820. He also said it would be necessary for her to see a medical man at least once a week?—I do not recollect.

1821. That is the only case?—That is the only case we have had lately.

1822. Did you ever have a case from any of the other places where the children's heads were lively like this one?—No, not from the schools; they are all clean; their hair is cut very short.

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Eleanor McKie examined.

1823. Do you know anything of Coranderrk station?—No, I was never there.
1824. Do you know anything about the aborigines—have you had people from Coranderrk at the hospital?—Yes, occasionally.
1825. You are at the Melbourne Hospital?—Yes.
1826. Have you had many from Coranderrk within the last three years?—I cannot remember the dates. Whatever there has been to do in connection with those patients has been done at the time, and I give it no more consideration.
1827. Have you had any lately?—A little while ago Mrs. Bon brought in three or four men.
1828. What was wrong?—I do not know exactly; I think they were suffering from chest disease.
1829. What was their appearance when they came in?—I complained that they looked very dirty and miserable, and I told Mrs. Bon I did not like to see them in my beds. I said I must put on hospital shirts. She said, "No, no necessity to do that, I will send shirts;" and she did so I believe.
1830. Did they die in the hospital?—I do not think so. I think they would not stay long with us; but as soon as they were a little better the doctor let them away. They never are content with us.
1831. Did they seem well nourished?—I could not say. That is a medical question.
1832. Dr. Armstrong stated that the blacks were well nourished and well clothed?—They always looked very miserable, in my opinion.
1833. Do you remember my bringing a woman with a baby in her arms, and a little girl?—Yes.
1834. Do you remember anything peculiar about her?—Yes. I made remarks that she was poorly clad. She was suffering with a bad breast. I think you (*Mrs. Bon*) wished me to persuade her to stay. I tried to induce her to stay, but they had a dread of being shut up in an institution like ours. I got her into the board-room because I wanted to see her breast. I remarked she was very poorly clad. It was very cold weather. She had prunella boots; they were old cast-off boots of some lady's, very much worn. I considered she was in a miserable state.
1835. Do you remember what the doctor thought the disease was she was suffering from?—No, I do not. I tried to induce her to believe it would turn to a cancer if she did not stay, but she would not be persuaded.
1836. You do not know what has become of her?—No, I never saw her afterwards; but the little girl had bad eyes, and I afterwards heard she had been taken to the Eye and Ear Hospital for treatment.
1837. Do you remember the state of their heads?—Yes.
1838. The last one I took to you was a little boy, do you remember him?—Yes.
1839. The son of King William?—Yes.
1840. Was he willing to enter your institution?—No; when his father came to see him, he thought his father should take him away, and, in the struggle to separate them, he bit the nurse through the arm.
1841. He dressed himself in spite of the remonstrances of the nurse?—Yes.
1842. What was the result of that; did the father see him again?—No, I do not think so; it was not considered wise to allow the father to see him.
1843. His crying would have disturbed the other patients?—Yes.
1844. Do not you think it is desirable in every way they ought to be treated at home instead of bringing them to a large institution?—I think it does them more harm than good, as they never content themselves with us.
1845. Did you ever know of anyone outside sending in presents of clothing?—I had a girl in the wards; we collected money to buy boots for her.
1846. How many years ago?—I cannot tell; five or six years ago perhaps.
1847. Was Fanny Snooks one of them?—Yes, I bought dresses for her myself.
1848. Do any blacks from any of the other stations come to you?—I have not asked the question where they come from.
1849. *By Captain Page.*—Did you say you bought clothing for the aborigines?—Yes.
1850. How many years ago?—I cannot say.
1851. *By the Board.*—Did you find Fanny Snooks an intelligent girl?—Yes.
1852. What disease was she suffering from?—A tumor she was supposed to have.
1853. Do you remember any gentlemen sending in clothing for the three men I brought to you?—I do remember the clothing being brought, but I do not know whether you sent them or whether they came from any other source.
1854. *By Captain Page.*—Do you know who the three men were?—I cannot remember any of their names; the only child I remember is little Fanny Snooks.
1855. *By the Board.*—Then you think these people were clad improperly?—They looked very miserable and dirty; I did not like their appearance.

The witness withdrew.

James Williams examined.

1856. *By the Board.*—What are you?—Secretary to the Melbourne Hospital.
1857. Do you know Coranderrk?—No, I never was there.
1858. You have never been there?—No.
1859. Have you had any people from Coranderrk at the hospital?—Yes, cases have been admitted occasionally from there.
1860. When was the last?—I really cannot say. The fact is, cases come and go out of the hospital without my knowledge.
1861. The last case was in July of this year?—Yes.
1862. What was he ill from?—I do not know; it is a medical question.
1863. Do you know what became of him?—He died in the hospital.
1864. Do you remember his appearance when he came in there—was he well clad?—I did not see him.
1865. Is there anyone else recently?—No.

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continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1866. Did a little boy show a willingness to remain with you?—He was anxious to go away with his father.
1867. Do you remember what occurred?—Yes.
1868. Will you describe it?—My attention was attracted to a crying in the corridor, and I found the little boy had come down from the ward and was anxious to go away with his parents; and after some trouble, Mrs. Bon persuaded him to go back to the ward.
1869. Was his father anxious to take him with him?—I think he was.
1870. Had his father the opportunity of seeing him again alive?—I think not. We requested the father not to come again, in consequence of the scene.
1871. Where was he when I (*Mrs. Bon*) came again?—Dead.
1872. Do you remember Jimmy Buller, a Queensland black tracker?—No.
1873. Do you remember he was destitute of flannel. The nurse called my attention to the fact?—I recollect your saying so. I did not know who he was. You mentioned that a man wanted some flannels.
1874. And you ordered him to be provided with hospital flannels?—Yes.
1875. Did he get Christian burial?—I cannot say.
1876. What did the boy die of?—I do not know. I think he suffered from bleeding from the nose.
1877. Did the Queensland tracker seem to be poorly clad?—I did not see him.
1878. Do you remember the case of Jimmy Rees?—No.
1879. He was buried by the hospital—does that mean Christian burial?—I cannot say.
1880. Do you remember Jimmy Webster?—Not by name.
1881. He left without being discharged, and came to me. Are those aborigines who die in the hospital buried in the same way as poor people?—In the same way as other people who have no friends.
1882. The Board does not pay for the funerals?—No.
1883. You do not know anything, of your own knowledge, about the burials?—No.
1884. What is the usual way of filling up the card placed over the head of the patient?—The patient is asked what is his persuasion.
1885. Do you remember the case of the little boy who died lately?—I recollect that case. There was some dispute as to his religious persuasion.
1886. What did they say on his admission to the hospital?—I think he was put down as Presbyterian, but Captain Page pointed out to me that persons were under the care of the Church of England minister, and as such they should be entered as Church of England. As there appeared to be some dispute, I put the question to the father as to what he was, and he said the boy was christened by a Presbyterian and he (the father) was married by a Presbyterian minister. I accepted that explanation, and put him down as Presbyterian.
1887. Did Captain Page scratch out Presbyterian and put in Church of England?—I think that was it.
1888. And afterwards you substituted a fresh card with the word Presbyterian on it?—Yes; I explained to Captain Page how it was that Presbyterian was inserted.
1889. Did you understand from Captain Page that when the blacks had a clergyman over them, the blacks of that station belonged to that clergyman's church?—I think that is the impression he wished to convey.
1890. From what you have seen of the aborigines, do you not consider they would be in every way much better off if they could be treated on their own settlement instead of being brought down here?—I think they prefer being among their own people. The same remark applies to negroes; they prefer to be in the same ward.
1891. And fretting must militate against their recovery?—Yes.
1892. Would you think it would be better for the Board to provide a small room at the station, to be used as a kind of hospital for the sick, instead of bringing them down here?—If medical aid was on the spot it would be a saving to the department; and the aborigines like to be among their own people.
1893. Have they not an intense feeling of affection for their own people and their own place?—I think that is stamped on the race altogether.
1894. Do you think if they were badly treated they would be so anxious to get back?—No; I think the anxiety to get back rather indicates they prefer to go home.
1895. Would you not attribute that to the love of home, in spite of its privations?—That is an element, doubtless.
1896. You have not found in any other people the same intense desire to get home?—Among the Swiss and other European nations you find the same desire to get home.
1897. Have you ever seen any of them have vermin?—You called my attention to a little girl who had vermin.
1898. Had she her mother with her?—I think so.
1899. Was her head in the same state?—I do not know anything about her.
1900. Have you ever known a visit to have been paid by the Aboriginal Board to the sick or dying?—I do not know.
1901. Do they not provide the little luxuries for which the dying crave?—The Board would not be allowed to do so. That is a medical question. The Hospital provides anything that is necessary.
1902. Those blacks have free admission to all the hospitals at any time?—Yes.
1903. Do not the relatives of the patients take in little luxuries?—We prevent it as far as possible.
1904. Do they ever bring down letters from the superintendent accrediting them to the hospital?—I think they generally come from Captain Page; but if an aboriginal comes, we at once take him in. We inform Captain Page afterwards, but we always take them in.
1905. Do you remember three arriving together in May 1880—two men and a boy?—I have no special knowledge of them.
1906. Have you ever been under the necessity of writing to Captain Page for clothing for them?—I think once, at your request, I wrote for something.
1907. Is it true that the nurse had to sew Davy Smith in a half sheet while his own shirt was at the wash?—I do not know.
1908. Mrs. Bon requested you to write to Captain Page about the clothing—was he badly clad?—I did it as a matter of courtesy. I assumed that her attention had been called to it.

1909. Was he poorly clad?—I have no idea.

1910. Would you have written unless there was some guarantee that he was short of clothes—did you not discover from the nurses?—I could not say. It would be a trivial matter. Other persons come in thinly clad. The admission of cases is dealt with by the medical man, and they go at once to the different parts of the house.

James Williams,
continued,
2nd Nov. 1881.

The witness withdrew.

Rev. David Maxwell examined.

1911. *By the Board.*—Do you know anything about Coranderrk?—I visited it once.

1912. How long ago?—Between five and six years—a mere flying visit it was.

1913. You have not been there since?—Not since.

1914. Did you examine the place, did you observe what was going on—the condition of it?—I called into some of the cottages and the school.

1915. Do you remember what was your impression about it?—I have a very indistinct remembrance of my visit.

1916. Did the place look cleanly?—Not particularly. The cottages did not seem very comfortable dwellings for poor people.

1917. Would you call them cottages or huts?—They were more like huts.

1918. Do you think they were well clad and well fed at that time?—That is rather a difficult question to answer.

1919. Their general appearance—did they look as if they had been handsomely clothed and fed?—I could not remember. I have a very vague remembrance of my visit. The only thing left on my mind was that the huts did not appear very comfortable. I could see the light of heaven through very many apertures in one of them. It seemed a very damp place.

1920. Have you seen any of the natives of Coranderrk lately?—The last time I saw one of them was in the Alfred Hospital. He died there.

1921. How long ago?—Perhaps a year I should fancy.

1922. What was his ailment?—Consumption.

1923. Have you seen anyone else?—No, he was the only one I have seen and conversed with.

1924. Did he seem content with being in the Alfred Hospital?—By no means. His great desire was to get home and die amongst his people.

1925. Did his being there hurry his death?—I could not say what effect it may have had on his mind. He had a great desire to get home.

1926. Was he a young man or an elderly man?—A man about the middle time of life.

1927. Was he married?—He was.

1928. You did not see his wife?—I did not.

1929. Do you know whether he had children?—I am not sure. I could not answer that question.

1930. Do you know his name?—Dan Hall.

1931. Did you go on purpose to visit him?—I did.

1932. How did you know he was there?—I had been told of his being there.

1933. You were asked to go and see him?—Yes.

1934. Do you consider, from the extreme reluctance with which they enter our hospitals and the strong desire they have of going home to their own people, that the hospital there would not be desirable?—I should fancy it would be desirable.

1935. Do you know how many days Dan Hall was in the Alfred Hospital?—He died the third day after I visited him, and he had newly come in. He had not been long in the hospital, if I mistake not.

1936. That is the only one you have ministered to?—Yes, that is the only one.

1937. *By Captain Page.*—Was there no other clergyman there?—We have a chaplain who visits regularly.

1938. You did not hear if Mr. Strickland visited him?—I cannot tell.

1939. *By the Board.*—What faith did he die in?—In the Christian faith.

1940. What denomination?—I never ask a dying man what denomination he belongs to.

1941. You want the primitive faith, and nothing else?—Exactly.

The witness withdrew.

Rev. Matthew Henry Ashe examined.

1942. *By the Board.*—Have you ever been at Coranderrk?—Never. I could have told you more about the stations in Gippsland, but I know very little about Coranderrk.

1943. Have you been in the habit of seeing people from Coranderrk?—I have seen some occasionally. On one occasion I saw Mrs. Bon's verandah full of aboriginals. Mrs. Bon said I had come just in time to say grace for them. They could not say grace. They were asked if they could say grace, and said they could not. I was asked to say grace for them.

1944. What was their general appearance?—I could scarcely say—very much like what I have seen generally among the aborigines.

1945. Were they well clothed?—It did not strike me one way or the other. I could not say whether they were well or ill clothed.

1946. Were you more impressed with their want of religious instruction?—I cannot say I was impressed any way at the time. I was asked to say grace, and I did say grace.

1947. Why were you asked to say grace?—Because they could not say it.

1948. You could not say whether they were well nourished or not?—I could not.

1949. Did they make any complaint to you?—Not that I heard. I was scarcely enough among them to have heard, one way or the other.

1950. Why was it you met so many, what was their object in coming to town?—I think they were coming to lay some complaint before the Board. I know they were coming down to lodge a complaint to some authority.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev.
M. H. Ashe,
2nd Nov. 1881.

The Rev. James Brown examined.

The Rev.
James Brown,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1951. Have you ever been to Coranderrk?—No.
 1952. You do not know the locality?—No, I have not been out that way at all.
 1953. Where do you reside?—At Northcote.
 1954. Do you know anything of the aborigines at Coranderrk?—I have visited a good many of them who were patients in the Melbourne Hospital, and one who was in the Alfred Hospital.
 1955. How long ago is it since you visited the one in the Alfred Hospital?—Last year sometime.
 1956. Do you remember his name?—Dan Hall. He died on the 14th July 1880.
 1957. What did he die of?—Consumption.
 1958. Did you attend him more than once?—Yes, I visited him frequently. I do not know how many times.
 1959. Did he seem satisfied to be in the hospital?—No; he had a great longing to be at home at Coranderrk; his family was there and he wished to be there. He said it was very much against his will he left the station at all.
 1960. Who made him leave?—I fancy he left it of his own accord, after certain representations had been made to him. One reason he said that made him leave was, that the station was in such disorder; he could not compose his mind to think of death.
 1961. He was very anxious to go back?—Yes, he wanted to die at home, with his family.
 1962. Did he complain of the treatment he was receiving at home, or had received at home?—I do not remember his complaining of bad treatment, only of the disturbance that he said was constantly going on—men swearing, and so much want of order—that he could not compose his mind to think of death.
 1963. How can you account for his being so anxious to go back so soon after, because he was only seven days there?—He was anxious to die among his friends. By the time he was two days there he was longing to be at home.
 1964. Did he seem to have good clothes on?—I did not pay much attention to that.
 1965. Did you see him in his clothes?—I saw him in bed.
 1966. Did he desire you to write to any friends he had?—He desired me to write to you (*Mrs. Bon*).
 1967. He did not desire you to write to his friends on the Board for the Protection of the Aborigines?
 —No.
 1968. You visit the Melbourne Hospital also?—Yes.
 1969. You are the stated visitor?—Yes; I visit the Melbourne Hospital two days a week.
 1970. As a rule no other clergymen go?—There is one clergyman, the Church of England chaplain.
 1971. You are Presbyterian?—Yes; all the aborigines of Coranderrk call themselves Presbyterians.
 1972. Have you seen any aborigines in the Melbourne Hospital?—Yes; a good many.
 1973. Have they evinced the same desire to go home?—They all evince a desire to go home when they get to the Melbourne Hospital. They do not seem to like to be among strangers; they seem uncomfortable in the wards. All the nurses testify that that is their experience.
 1974. *By Captain Page*.—Do not the other patients crave to go home?—No, I do not think that.
 1975. *By the Board*.—Would not it be much better if they could be treated at the settlement instead of being brought to those places?—Their minds would be more at ease if they were treated at home.
 1976. I suppose you find an infantile character of mind even among the older ones?—Yes.
 1977. Are they not grateful for any little attention you show them?—Yes, I have always found them very grateful.

The witness withdrew.

Joseph Banks examined.

Joseph Banks,
2nd Nov. 1881.

1978. You are one of the firm of Banks Brothers and Co.?—I am.
 1979. You have been requested to appear to-day and bring the invoices of goods supplied to Coranderrk from June 1877 to 1881?—Yes. [*The witness handed in a bundle of papers.*]
 1980. September 1877 is the first?—There was nothing between June and September.
 1981. Are the details in the accounts?—The details and a summary.
 1982. Do the orders come in at regular times?—No, odd times. You have got the dates on the summary; that will show you at once. Each separate invoice shows how and where they were sent.
 1983. Is this for clothing on the station?—Yes.
 1984. Are there not certain months in the year when the orders come in?—The larger orders generally come in about the same time, but there are a lot of smaller ones for special cases. The invoices themselves will explain everything.
 1985. Do you deal in shoes?—Yes, shoes and boots.
 1986. These are copies of the original accounts?—Yes.
 1987. Do you remember a black man from Coranderrk calling upon you to purchase a pair of boots?—I do. There were two aborigines brought by Mrs. Bon.
 1988. Did you take money from him?—No.
 1989. Did you give him the boots as a present?—Yes.
 1990. You gave them as a present in the interests of humanity?—No, the man had a very fair pair of boots on; I have worn boots as bad myself.
 1991. In wet weather?—It was not wet weather.
 1992. They were canvas boots?—Yes, but I should not have been afraid to go out in them myself. He had the boots simply to get rid of him; he might have gone on without them.
 1993. It was winter time?—I could not recollect the date.
 1994. Why did you give him the boots?—I wanted to get rid of the persistency of the lady who brought him in.
 1995. Who brought him in?—Mrs. Bon.
 1996. I (*Mrs. Bon*) offered to pay for them—there could be no persistency in that?—We often do give things away, as it was an account of ours. My time was pretty valuable, and it was better to give

the boots away. Mrs. Bon wanted them charged to the Government, but having no authority we could not do it; she then offered to pay herself, but I would not allow her.

1997. What kind of boots are those canvas boots?—There are a very large number of them worn during the summer time. As a matter of fact he took the new boots away under his arm. That the boots were taken under his arms can be proved by the man in the department.

Mrs. Bon disputed the accuracy of this statement.

The Witness.—I would like to mention this to the Board. I have heard statements made that the goods supplied by us to Coranderrk and other stations were not supplied at wholesale prices. I wish to state that they are supplied at absolute wholesale prices and nothing else, and no customer of ours could come and buy in retail quantities any better than they do from us.

1998. Are they retail prices?—No, they are wholesale prices for retail quantities. Those figures are absolutely correct, and they are supplied at wholesale prices.

1999. At any rate you treat the Aboriginal Board the same as you would the Melbourne Hospital if they were dealing with you?—Just the same.

2000. Do you allow a commission or a discount on those goods?—The same commission that we do on any other transaction. I will show you our terms—[*handing a paper to the Chairman, who read the same*].

2001. Is the discount deducted from those accounts?—It is a separate account; the discount is supplied in goods to the different stations, as our books will show.

2002. Is there any invoice to show that?—There is no invoice here to show, but our books will show it.

2003. *By Captain Page.*—What kind of goods were sent?—Fancy goods, to be given away to the different stations to those of the blacks who were of good behaviour.

2004. *By the Board.*—What kind of fancy goods?—Ribbons and things of that sort.

2005. Do many of them go to Coranderrk?—I can get you the necessary information, but it will take a day to prepare it.

2006. What is the price of that?—[*handing a piece of red cloth to the witness*]—What is the width of it—there are two widths.

2007. Take the narrow and the wide both—what is the price?—If you will tell me when it was supplied I will tell you all about it.

2008. Is that wool or cotton?—It is a union.

[*Certain samples of goods that had been sent to Coranderrk were handed in and inspected by the Board, who pronounced them to be of good quality.*]

2009. The general run of goods supplied to the station are as good as you supply to country stores?—As a rule they are rather better.

[*Captain Page produced a sample of the blankets complained of.*]

2010. What is the price of those blankets?—15s. 6d.

2011. How much cotton is in them?—I could not analyse them immediately. It is a union blanket; there would be three parts or more wool.

2012. Could you buy an imported blanket free from cotton at all?—You could, but you would have to pay a very long price for it. In connexion with that scarlet skirting, the price is a little higher than any other can be bought for, on account of the dye.

2013. Is not this the kind of thing the poor people at home have?—They would be very glad to get such stuff.

2014. You have a running account for five months?—No, as a rule the Government pay within two or three months and take the discount. As a rule this discount is taken out in goods and sent to the different stations.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, 3RD NOVEMBER 1881.

Present:

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.P., in the Chair;

J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P.,

J. L. Dow, Esq., M.L.A.,

Thomas Armstrong, Esq., J.P.

Dr. Embling,

Mrs. Bon.

Rev. F. A. Hagenauer examined.

2015. *By the Board.*—Have you ever been at Coranderrk?—I have been at Coranderrk many years ago. I kept away for many years, though I have had invitations to go there; but, being engaged as manager of another station, and superintendent of nearly all the other stations, I did not wish to mix in any way with the Government station, and I did not come to Coranderrk; but I have had a good deal of information, either through the natives or through the printed reports.

2016. Have you had anything to do with the establishment of Coranderrk?—No, I had nothing to do with it, except at the Commission. I was the only witness who recommended that Coranderrk should be founded, and Mr. Green should be superintendent in 1862, when it was founded. It was not founded to make a large station, but a school, and a committee was appointed in 1862; I was the only witness who was called and examined on the subject whether it should be a school for aboriginal children, and whether it would be possible to get them to come to the place.

2017. You did not know the locality at the time?—No; but shortly after I went and saw the place.

2018. After you saw it, you recommended it as a suitable place?—No. I said in the locality somewhere. I did not fix the spot. Mr. Green did that.

The Rev.
F. A. Hagenauer,
3rd Nov. 1881.

The Rev.
F. A. Hagenauer,
continued,
3rd Nov. 1881.

2019. You recommended the school?—Yes.
2020. Previous to going there?—Yes.
2021. When you went there, you thought it was unsuitable?—No; the question was whether it was advisable in the locality of Melbourne to have a school there. The station was far away in the mountains at Acheron until removed to Coranderrk.
2022. You have not been to Coranderrk since?—No.
2023. Do many of the Coranderrk aborigines go to Gippsland?—They used to do. Some came two or three years ago; I am not quite certain as to time. There came deputations from the Coranderrk men to get my men to join them in making some demands on the Government.
2024. Were those natives of the Yarra tribe, or brought in from other places?—I think they were brought in from other places.
2025. Did they give the reasons for leaving Coranderrk and going to your place?—They did not want to leave Coranderrk. They wanted to get my men to join them in getting demands carried out by the Government. I have only one family which came from Coranderrk, and resides at my place.
2026. How long is it since they left Coranderrk?—Two years or eighteen months.
2027. Did they belong to the Yarra tribe?—I believe the man originally belonged to Gippsland. He came over when Mr. Green collected natives all over the country. He got married at the station at Coranderrk twice.
2028. Did he give any reason for going back to Gippsland?—Yes, he said it was not healthy. His wife died.
2029. What was his name?—Tommy Arnott.
2030. There is a report to the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, 1879:—"I may here also draw attention to a recommendation of those members of the Board who officially inspected this station in May last. It is as follows:—'That permission be requested from the Chief Secretary to disband and break up both Coranderrk and Framlingham stations, and distribute the natives now living on them amongst the four other stations.' " Who were those gentlemen who inspected those stations?—Mr. Curr and Mr. Le Soeuf.
2031. You have that family who went from Coranderrk there now?—Yes, except the wife, who died about three weeks ago.
2032. She resided there about two years before she died?—Yes.
2033. What did she die of?—Consumption.
2034. Had she consumption when she arrived there?—Yes.
2035. Did they consult Mr. Kramer?—It was not a consultation. My report is based on a letter in the report to Parliament.
2036. Did you go with Mr. Kramer to see the station?—No, I had nothing to do with that.
2037. Did you say what part of the colony the wife was a native of?—I believe it was near Benalla.
2038. She was brought into Coranderrk?—As a child.
2039. And a Gippsland man married her there?—Yes.
2040. He went of his own accord to Ramahyuck?—I am sure of that. I did not want to keep him. I wrote down to Mr. Strickland to say I did not wish to have any natives from Coranderrk, because they would unsettle mine.
2041. You did not refuse them a home?—I never refuse any native a home when he comes; but if I could have prevented it, I would have done so. I consider it my duty to receive every native, whoever he is.
2042. Those were the only ones that went from Coranderrk to your place to settle?—To settle—except a deputation that wanted to get my people to join in a deputation to the Chief Secretary.
2043. Was it intended, suppose the two stations, Coranderrk and Framlingham, were broken up, to remove them to Ramahyuck?—No; I suppose to the stations where the natives would choose to go; and taking it from my point of view, I do not like to receive Coranderrk blacks, because their demands are so great.
2044. You were in hopes to get a fair share of them?—I was in fear of getting some of them. I was sent by the Government to collect those wandering ones who were living without a station.
2045. This statement of Messrs. Curr and Le Soeuf is an untruth—"We consulted Messrs. Hagenauer and Bulmer with reference to Coranderrk"?—They would ask me of course, but it was hardly a consultation.
2046. "And both unequivocally condemned it as an aboriginal reserve—Mr. Hagenauer stating that he considered it utterly impossible for anyone to manage it satisfactorily"?—I believe so. I believe if the angel Gabriel came to manage Coranderrk he would not be able to do it satisfactorily.
2047. Did you receive £100 for your extra trouble in bringing in the blacks?—That was the journey and outfit for months all through the districts of the Wimmera, and along the Murray as far as Wentworth.
2048. What was the result of that journey?—It was reported to Parliament.
2049. How many blacks did you bring in?—I do not know. Twenty went at once to Ebenezer.
2050. One hundred and sixty blacks were all you came across?—That is all.
2051. You did not get them all to join the station?—There is no law to force them to a station.
2052. Can you say anything with regard to Coranderrk?—I can say nothing particular. I have not visited it. All I can say is the influence is of such a nature that we are afraid of them on the other stations. The natives read the newspapers, and say, "The Coranderrk people get this and this allowed; we want that too. What is right to one is fair to another." It unsettles them on the whole.
2053. You find that with your own?—Both with my own and other stations.
2054. Do you think it impossible to have Coranderrk managed properly?—I could not undertake it.
2055. Has it ever been managed properly?—I have known several gentlemen who have tried it. The gentleman who now manages Condah very well could not manage Coranderrk.
2056. Has it ever had a manager who managed the place well and efficiently? Have you heard of any gentleman who has obtained the approbation of the Board? Who was the first manager?—Mr. Green.
2057. Was he not highly spoken of as a manager?—I have not his reports as an inspector. I could not say much of him.
2058. Do you think the Coranderrk station being so near Melbourne goes against it as being well managed?—I could not say that.

2059. Do not you think that being so near the white population acts detrimentally against managing the station properly?—It is a temptation for the natives generally to be near a large town.

2060. Do many strangers visit your own station?—A great many.

2061. Has that an injurious influence?—It had, and I had to get the machinery set to work to prevent it. Excursion steamers began to run to my place on Sunday, and I had to stop it.

2062. How did you stop it?—I applied to the Government, and the Government stopped it. Captain Page issued a circular.

2063. What did that state?—That this was an aboriginal settlement, and visitors had to get permission before they could visit the place, or they would be considered trespassers. I did not object to respectable ladies and gentlemen visiting the place.

2064. In regard to Coranderrk, there is a great deal said about consumption at Coranderrk; but in your report you find those who have never lived in any settlement suffering from consumption?—That illness is all over the country.

2065. The black man who left your station and went to Coranderrk was healthy?—Yes.

2066. He left your station and went to Coranderrk and came back; why did he come back?—For the sake of his wife—she was consumptive.

2067. Did not you say that he said the place was unhealthy?—Yes, he said that, and he came with his sick wife.

2068. Are the blacks on your station consumptive?—Yes, some of them.

2069. Is it pretty prevalent there?—I do not think it is any better or worse than the other stations. I am not acquainted with Coranderrk. It has been stated often that it would be better to let them wander.

2070. Have you many on your stations who have been brought in from other parts of the colony?—From the Murray, the Wimmera, and Sydney border, and other parts.

2071. Are they contented there?—They are quite contented. It would be a great punishment to send them away.

2072. They have got attached to you?—Yes, but it is more the home they have.

2073. In this report you sent in 1879 you say you came across 138, but you do not say you brought a single one into the station. Was that £100 given in the form of a gratuity?—I was requested (because there were statements made that there were 600 natives along the Murray) to see them and try to induce them to come to the stations. If you make a journey to the mallee, you must have some means to go on; the journey would take months. The journey was through the mallee down to Wentworth. We were two men. We had to take a conveyance and horses, which cost money.

2074. Did you bring in one black?—They went in to other stations; to Ebenezer and even to Coranderrk.

2075. Do you know anything further about the discontent of the people at Coranderrk?—No.

2076. I understood that the Board gave you a £100 cheque?—No, I never got a sixpence.

2077. *By Captain Page.*—Do you think the half-caste girls should be allowed to go out into service?—I have stated in several reports I think it is a very dangerous thing. We have to receive them back again with babies.

2078. *By the Board.*—If they were placed in respectable families, where they would have proper superintendence, is it not possible they would be very much better off than on the station?—Yes; and the men should be treated in the same way.

2079. Supposing four of your young girls of good character wanted to go as servants, would you not endeavor to get places for them?—Yes.

2080. Have you any power to restrain them after they are eighteen years of age?—No. It is a question that has often bothered me, what will become of those half-castes?

2081. Is that not the only way to solve the question—place them with Christian families, with some gentleman or ladies to look after them, instead of living at Coranderrk?—I believe that is the only prospect we have. Half-castes should be raised, and not be brought down to the level of the blacks.

2082. Seeing you have no control over them after they are eighteen, would it not be your bounden duty to draw them into the white population?—Yes.

2083. *By Captain Page.*—You think the best thing to do is to send them out to service?—No, not send them out to service, but it could be permissive under certain circumstances. I must say honestly I went even so far as to say that half-caste orphan children should not be left with the blacks at all. I arranged with the Orphan Asylum at Brighton to see that they should take the half-caste orphans and keep them from the blacks altogether.

2084. Do you think a hospital would be a proper thing to have on the stations?—I can give full information. I had several times sick rooms for them, but they refused to use them. I also went four or five years ago to Melbourne and got my friends to collect money and built one with five rooms. I asked one to go in and he objected; he would rather sleep outside. The hospital, though furnished, remained empty. They would not go in. They said, "You will kill us." A hospital would also require white attendance.

2085. At Coranderrk they pay for their meat?—Yes.

2086. Do you think that is a good plan to encourage them to do so or not?—It is a better plan if you pay them wages. We, on our stations, have never had sufficient funds to do that.

2087. In your clothing and rations, do you get sufficient?—I think so.

2088. Of proper quality?—The qualities are very good and suitable for the natives. I do not know how much we could expect from the Board. I do not know the amount of funds they have, but the natives are well provided, both with food and clothes. They might take more if they could get it, but I do not know if the rules and regulations, which had the Governor's sanction long ago, are still in existence. Those rules stated that it was not supposed that the Parliament of Victoria should supply and support the natives entirely, but that the men should make some efforts towards the support of their wives and children; and it said boots are not to be supplied, so we never apply for them.

2089. *By the Board.*—Do you know the number of that clause about limiting the supply?—It is a circular.

2090. Do the natives wear no boots?—Those men who get wages buy them, and I get them for the children if they wish so.

The Rev.
F. A. Hagenauer,
continued,
3rd Nov. 1881.

2091. *By Captain Page.*—It has been stated* that the Board is antagonistic to the blacks and I am their enemy?—That is not the case; it is quite different, as you will see by my report and those of the other missionaries, and also in my report which will be printed next week. I have had to deal with Mr. Brough Smyth and his iron rule, and the successive officers, and the business has never been so promptly attended to as now. Every letter is answered, and every request has been granted within reasonable bounds. The members of the Board investigate matters carefully. I speak quite independently, I get no salary from the Government.

2092. *By the Board.*—You say that if they work for wages they supply themselves?—Yes.

2093. Supposing the regulation is that they shall receive wages and supply themselves and family with food?—I speak about boots and extra luxuries.

2094. Supposing a man cannot work for a whole week on account of the wet, would you supply him with meat or let him starve?—I believe mine is the only station which is self-supporting in meat, and my rule is this: if it rains or a man is sick I supply him with a certain amount of meat every morning, but if a man objects to work I withhold his meat. It is the rule of the place, but every one in the place can get his meals in the orphan-house.

2095. That means that the blacks are not to suffer in consequence of wet weather?—No.

2096. In no case do they buy their own meat?—No, not at my place, except they want to buy some sausages from the butchers.

2097. Do you allow your men to run in debt with storekeepers?—That is a difficult thing to prevent. I have paid their debts once, and I tell them, "If you run in debt a second time I will not help you."

2098. Supposing a man wants meat and he has no money?—I supply him.

2099. Supposing there is an old man who is suffering from the infirmities of age, would you give him a half ration of meat instead of a full ration?—No, the sick and old get a full ration.

2100. What is your ration?—Three pounds of meat per day for each family. If there is a large family we supply more; that is because I have the meat; if I had not had the meat I could not give it.

2101. Do you say that if any able-bodied man refused to work you keep the beef from him?—Yes; not the children, they can have it if they choose.

2102. Is the beef the only ration you keep from a man because he does not work?—No; the family gets their rations, but if a man refuses to work he loses his rations.

2103. I suppose a kind firmness is the cure for obstinacy on the part of the blacks?—One has to be firm. I remember, in one instance, they complained to Captain Page, and the matter was investigated, and they apologized. I took them into the church and said, "Let us investigate the matter." The man himself wrote to Captain Page, and begged his pardon for having made a mistake.

2104. They are amenable to reason?—It takes a long time. The worst influence is that of low white men. I have had men coming to me and saying, "Such and such a man," a low white man, "tells us those cattle are ours; we are going to take this cow and sell it." They believe what the white people tell them.

2105. You get no salary from the Government?—No, I get a salary from the church.

2106. Do you think that good discipline is necessary for the welfare of the station?—You will not be able to do anything if you do not keep up discipline. It is the only thing possible to manage them. It is by kindness we must treat them; that is the foundation. You have to do exactly as you would do in your own family. You must be firm. It is impossible not to be firm.

2107. Dr. Gibson states that hunting is a precarious mode of eeking out a living, and that sleeping out is injurious?—I have two doctors who visit my station and charge nothing.

2108. How far do they reside from the station?—Fourteen miles. They take it as a matter of Christian kindness. They told me when a young man began to be sick, "Let him go for a fortnight along the lakes, hunting."

2109. Not to lie out at night?—No.

2110. They are obliged to go out hunting at Coranderrk to make their meat spin out?—Many go hunting for pleasure. I have supplied them with full meat, the finest mutton you could have, and after they have had their dinner they would go out and roast a wallaby or opossum.

2111. On our visit there was no animal food on the station, except a small native bear and piece of wallaby?—I have known them put salt beef behind the house and say, "We do not like salt beef."

The witness withdrew.

Captain A. M. A. Page examined.

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2112. *By the Board.*—You are general superintendent of the aboriginal stations?—Inspector and secretary.

2113. How long have you been in that position?—1877 I commenced duty.

2114. Under the Aboriginal Board?—Yes.

2115. Have you to do with all the stations?—All over the country.

2116. When did you visit Coranderrk first?—I think about a week after I was appointed.

2117. Were you ever there before?—Yes, in 1870 and 1871, I think.

2118. Were you there officially?—No, I was passing the place and called in.

2119. How do you consider Coranderrk managed locally?—By the present manager?

2120. Yes?—I think he is doing his best; that is all I can say. It is impossible for any man to manage it at the present time.

2121. Is the authority divided at Coranderrk between two or three?—It has lately got divided. It ought not to be divided. Mr. Strickland is sole manager, Harris is the overseer; but to a certain extent Harris is the manager of everything except the station itself.

2122. Has he full control?—Not properly.

2123. If Mr. Strickland should say he has nothing to do with the farm work, and has no control over Mr. Harris, would he be telling the truth?—He has the control, but he has never taken it. He considers Harris has to do with the farm work; he does not control him, though he ought to control him.

2124. What is Harris supposed to be?—Farm overseer.

2125. Is there a hop manager besides?—No.
2126. Who is next?—The schoolmaster, Mr. Deans.
2127. Has he anything to do with the station except the school?—No.
2128. Has he any right to interfere with anything except the school?—No; simply the school.
2129. Has Mr. Strickland any supervision over him; can he dictate to him?—Not with the school.
2130. What control has he over him?—As the manager, he must see that he does the work at the proper time. He has no control over the school.
2131. Has Harris to account for everything he does to Mr. Strickland—does he deliver the produce of the farm to Mr. Strickland?—He would not deliver it to him; he would deliver it to be sent to town. He gives an account to Mr. Strickland, and it is sent down.
2132. Has Harris any power to sell?—No.
2133. Has Mr. Strickland?—Not unless he gets authority.
2134. You allow him to sell and then report?—Not as a rule. I do not know any occasion when there has been a question on the subject. There has never been anything to sell except hops, and they come down to town.
2135. There was evidence came before us at Coranderk that Mr. Strickland sold a pair of wheels; had he authority to sell them?—I do not know anything about them that I remember.
2136. Was it ever reported to you?—I do not remember anything about it.
2137. Supposing Mr. Strickland has sold the wheels and got the money for them and has not reported it to you or given you the money for the Board, it would be wrong?—Decidedly.
2138. How is the clothing allotted to the Coranderk station?—You mean the quantity for each?
2139. Yes?—There is no particular quantity allowed.
2140. Have you any guard against one getting more than another?—No, because he might require more than another; it is left to the manager to distribute fairly. One man might wear out the clothes and another might not.
2141. How many suits do you think they would require?—Perhaps two suits a year.
2142. You make provision for that?—Yes, more if required; there is no limit to it.
2143. Have you any check upon the delivery of this clothing to the natives; in other words, can Mr. Strickland give or keep from them as he likes without your knowledge?—I could not tell very well whether it is served out to them, but it goes up. A man might want a pair of trousers—Mr. Strickland could say he would not give them. I do not know why he should do so.
2144. Supposing he says he gave two suits of clothing in twelve months, and the blacks say they only got one, have you any means of proving who is right?—That is a return I get monthly from the station—*[handing in a paper]*.
2145. Does it give the names of each person?—No.
2146. That is sent down to the Board each month?—Yes, from each station.
2147. You could not prove then, to us, that these blacks are done justice to in the shape of allotting clothes?—No, not very well; he keeps a book in which he puts down everything served out and the name of the person. In all these stations one must put some confidence in the manager.
2148. In the returns from the other stations, are the names of the recipients mentioned?—Just the same as that.
2149. Have you not only one other station?—I have nineteen other stations. I do not get them from the small local guardians every month, but from the regular stations. In some there are only six people, and it is not worth while.
2150. Do you make ample provision for all men, women, and children?—Yes. It is done this way: I send round, early in the year, telling all the station people to send in their requisitions for clothing for the ensuing year. I send up almost exactly what they ask for; that goes out, and afterwards, if anything is wanted, as it is continually, they send for more things, and they go up too.
2151. What month do they generally go up?—The greater amount of clothing goes up in May or June.
2152. A great deal is left to the discretion of the manager?—A great deal. It must be left.
2153. You say the requisition is sent down every year for clothing?—Yes.
2154. I find here, in 1878, there are twelve invoices of goods supplied to Coranderk—January, £17 11s. 8d.; February, £2 15s. 2d.; later on, in April, £12 14s. 7d.; May, £71 9s. 5d.; May 29th, £152 12s. 10d.; and so on—you do not get it in the lump and send it up?—You see the £71 and £152 were ordered at the same time, but sent up separately. Some things had to be made, or perhaps the dray could not take it all up.
2155. Three different items were sent in October?—That depends; when they sent down for those things, they are sent up.
2156. Do you keep the letters of application?—I do not after the requisition is finished with.
2157. Who examines these invoices to see that the quantity of articles is received?—It goes up to the station. Mr. Strickland has to check it off, and certify that he has received these articles. It then comes back to me. I check everything, and copy the account. It is sent to the Treasury, and, if it is wrong, it comes back again.
2158. You would not send it if Mr. Strickland did not write?—I should, if they wanted it. I might go to the station, and find that they wanted things, and I would send them up.
2159. Mr. Strickland ought to be the proper person to tell you what is wanted?—So he is.
2160. If he applies to you, his letter is your authority to send the things to show the Board?—I should not send them unless they are wanted.
2161. Do they complain to you they do not get enough clothing?—I have never heard a complaint about the clothing; never once.
2162. Have you observed them in want of clothing?—Never.
2163. Do you think they are always wearing as good clothes as the laboring people in general do?—I think they are quite as good.
2164. What are the trousers made of?—Moleskin.
2165. Are they never allowed woollen trousers?—No.

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2166. Do you allow sufficient flannel for the men and women's underclothing?—There is flannel sent up, exactly what is asked for.

2167. Is it sent up in the piece?—In the piece, to be made up.

2168. Supposing that the blacks—the male blacks—say they do not get any flannels at all, would it be correct?—It would be very untrue.

2169. Have you any way of proving that they get it?—That can be proved in this way. I am up there continually, and I have never heard a complaint about the clothing.

2170. When they say that their wives make their petticoats into flannel shirts for the men—is that true?—I could not say; I could not say that was true. I have not seen them do it, and I never heard of it. I will tell you how that mistake might be made—the women come for the clothing. A certain quantity of flannel is served out, and the men may consider that all the flannel is meant for the women.

2171. Should he put down in the book so many yards for so-and-so, and so many yards for his wife?—He ought to. I have ordered him the other day to make them sign for everything.

2172. Has he kept a book?—He has kept a book; whether he puts down for each man and woman, I do not know; he is considered a thoroughly honest man.

2173. Have you any means of showing that that statement about the wives' petticoats is false, that they received sufficient quantity to keep them in flannel shirts?—I could not say at the present moment.

2174. It might be rather unsatisfactory if they can turn round on the manager and say, "If you received flannel from Melbourne, you have not served it out to us"?—Yes.

2175. How is it that in other Government institutions all Government stores are marked and it is not done in Coranderrk?—The natives objected to have them marked.

2176. You believe the blacks would object to the Government brand on the blankets?—I do not think they would like it.

2177. Do the expenses of Coranderrk compare favorably with other stations?—More expensive.

2178. What is that to be attributed to?—They get more.

2179. How does Framlingham compare?—Coranderrk gets more than Framlingham.

2180. More per head?—More per head.

2181. Do you consider that they are supplied with ample food?—Yes; and ample clothing. With reference to the rations, there can be no doubt about that.

2182. Are they supplied in the same manner in which the clothing is supplied—that is, you send sufficient up to the manager and leave it to his discretion to allot it?—He allots it. The farm overseer is always there to see it issued.

2183. Have the blacks complained to you they were not getting enough to eat?—Never, except about the meat.

2184. Are they telling the truth when they say that they run out of flour and sugar sometimes on Wednesday and sometimes on Thursday, so that they are sometimes two or three days short of flour and sugar?—If they run short, they ought not to do so. The ration they receive consists of 10 lbs. of flour, 2 lbs. of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea, rice, and oatmeal. That is the ration that is given on all the stations to workmen, and has always been considered enough.

2185. Are those paid out to the families and individuals regularly every Saturday?—Every Saturday, in the presence of Mr. Harris.

2186. Is the quantity that each family or individual receives put down in the book?—In certain houses there are certain people; they know the amount for each family, and that is put down in the book.

2187. Does the man attach his name to that—does he sign the book that he got it?—No.

2188. At least thirteen out of the fifteen said they were not getting enough—that they ran out of food sometimes on Wednesday and sometimes on Thursday?—One says he runs out of flour; the next one out of sugar, and he borrows from his neighbor. I do not understand that.

2189. In this case everyone said they borrowed from their neighbor. They were asked if their neighbor got more than they could eat, and they said they did not know. Would it benefit the manager by depriving them of those rations?—Not a bit; just the other way.

2190. How would it injure him?—He would be blamed for it. Mr. Harris is present when the rations are served out, and he says that frequently they make a mistake in the house, and the blacks always weigh their own rations.

2191. With reference to meat, have they to get the supply themselves with their own earnings?—Some four years ago the blacks were being found in everything—half-castes as well. The Board thought something ought to be done to encourage them to have a little independence. The matter was talked over, and it was proposed that, instead of finding them in everything, the Board should stop their meat and give them extra payment. According to a certain scale, they were getting then twopence-farthing an hour; it was proposed to increase that, giving a man a halfpenny an hour extra. If a man was married he would have an extra halfpenny and a halfpenny for every child over ten years—under ten, they would get a farthing if the child was over two.

2192. That was to compensate for the loss of their meat?—Yes.

2193. Have they to find anything else out of that?—No.

2194. No furniture?—They find what they like—that halfpenny is for their meat.

2195. Have you ever calculated whether their earnings are enough every week to get sufficient meat?—Yes. I calculated that, up to the end of September in this year, it rained on sixty-four days, I think. If we deduct the Sundays that will be thirty-nine days, and take off thirty-five whole days when they could not work at all, that will be a good percentage. If they do that they ought to have made £14, after paying for their meat.

2196. What do the wages average a week?—About eight shillings a week.

2197. What wages have been paid during this nine months?—I could not tell at this moment.

2198. Mr. Harris tells us they were often compelled to leave off work on account of the rain?—I am speaking of the year all through.

2199. What do you get your calculations from?—From the returns of the rain at Coranderrk.

2200. How many days a week are they supposed to work?—Five days and a half, I suppose. I calculated five days and a half until Saturday noon. I can only judge of them as with a white man. If

he chooses to work there is the money for him. If they choose to go fishing it is not likely they can make it up. Captain A. M. A.
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2201. Do you know anything about their dealings with the butchers—do they get justice?—They would not be interfered with about that. I spoke to one man about that—a half-caste. When Mr. Vale went up he made some remark, and the man was quite indignant about it. He said, “What business was it of Mr. Vale’s?”

2202. What sort of sugar do they have?—All the rations sent up are the same as are sent to first-class stations up the country.

2203. They say they cannot get sugar in Healesville fit to eat?—They do not get sugar in Healesville.

2204. In what way are those moneys paid—are they paid once a week?—Once a quarter, except in hop time; we pay more frequently then. They get paid for two months, but they get paid once a quarter.

2205. Are they satisfied they get what they are entitled to?—I fancy so. I have never heard any complaint. Mr. Harris puts down the time. There is a check kept on him.

2206. Morgan’s evidence is:—“What wages do you make now?—For the last two months I have been paid £1 18s. 11d.—When were you paid last?—Last week sometime we were paid.—Do you know how much a week you get?—No.—Do you work all the time?—We work in fine weather. We lose time to get wood. In wet weather we do not get any payments.—Do you know that that is only six shillings and four-pence a week—have you to pay for the meat out of that?—Yes; I am in debt now—I am in debt £1 12s.—Then you could not have been working all the time; in wet weather you do not get anything?—Mr. Harris would be able to tell you, because he has it all down in a book. He tells you when you are away.”—Then Mr. Harris was called in:—“(To Mr. Harris.)—Morgan informs us that during the last two months he only earned £1 18s. 11d., can you inform us why he did not earn more in the two months?—The wet weather.—Has it been wet?—June and July.—He says he was paid last week for the last two months?—That was for June and July.”—They get no payment in wet weather, and yet they are supposed to eat meat?—I tell you they could have cleared £14 up to the end of September, independent of buying their meat.

2207. Would there be any difficulty in paying them monthly?—No. It has been the rule always to pay them that way. They might at one time of the year have a little difficulty. We have not always sufficient money in hand at the end of the year.

2208. Do you often see them going barefooted?—I have seen them going barefooted, but not through not having any boots.

2209. When I visited the station Mr. Strickland told me it was on account of the supplies not having arrived; that was in May?—The stores do not come up till the end of June.

2210. Are they compelled to work?—We cannot compel them to do anything.

2211. I mean as to the rations, is there no check?—They are supposed to be stopped if a man can work and will not work, but we do not do anything.

2212. You do not deduct any rations if they will not work?—It has been done.

2213. The meat is never knocked off unless they refuse to work?—They do not get meat in the rations.

2214. Is it true that poor old William, the chief, had his ration of meat knocked off because he attended the deputation to Mr. Berry?—No, I do not believe it.

2215. Would it be any gain to Mr. Strickland to stop the rations?—No, he would have made an enemy of the man for no good. Such a thing as this may have happened: the man may have been absent and did not get his back rations. Some of them will draw their rations on a Saturday and go away.

2216. What was the reason of the new regulation for the meat; was it not that they could not get the blacks to work without a new regulation after Mr. Green left. Is not that the real reason why the new regulation with regard to the meat was introduced to get the blacks to work?—No.

2217. What was the reason?—To make them feel a little independent; to encourage them to be independent. There were so many half-castes there doing nothing; there was nothing to encourage them to work. They got all the food ready to hand. It was a very bad way.

2218. Has it had the effect of making them feel independent?—I do not know that it has.

2219. Are not a good many of them in debt?—If they will not work well, that is their own fault.

2220. Is it not because they are not paid regularly?—They have always been paid in the same way.

2221. How is it that the station is not now having a surplus of meat like Mr. Hagenauer’s?—Mr. Hagenauer has got a beautiful country.

2222. How is it that Coranderk is not able to keep itself in meat, and have a supply?—Because we cannot keep the stock in the place.

2223. Why not?—On account of the fencing. As fast as the fencing is put up it is chopped down.

2224. Has it ever been fenced?—A great part of it is fenced; but if they will not respect one part, they will not respect another. We have got some of it fenced.

2225. Might they not look upon it as a common until it is completely fenced in?—I do not know why they should do it, but they do it. There are some parts fenced. There is a fine paddock along the Badger, but they cannot keep the cattle there.

2226. If that were your own property, would you not have the place fenced in?—That is a different thing, in this way: the blacks are there, and seem to go in with the people round. They do not seem to care.

2227. Was not a thousand pounds passed some time ago for fencing?—I never heard of it.

2228. Is it not mentioned in the Royal Commission that such a thing did take place, and a member of the Royal Commission stepped in and prevented its being expended. Is it a fact that you suspended works believing that the station would be broken up?—I did not suspend works. We did not go on with improvements.

2229. What was the reason you did not go on?—Because the Board had requested the Chief Secretary to do away with the station, and it was believed he intended to do so. In the meantime, the Board did not think they were justified in going on with improvements.

2230. Is that the reason the huts were not put up sooner?—That is the reason.

2231. Would that apply also to the place not being fenced in?—No.

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2232. The reason for not fencing the station in is, you think it would not keep the cattle in—they would break down the fence?—If we had black labor to go on with, the place would have been done by degrees; but I was never satisfied to see the fence go up. I thought it was waste of labor.

2233. Do you think it would provide the place with meat all the year round if it was fenced?—I think it would if we had white stockmen.

2234. Ought the Board to have a white stockman?—They ought, but they would object to it very much to employ white labor for stock work.

2235. Have you power to hire a stockman?—Yes, we have the power.

2236. Have you not good stockmen on the station among the half-castes?—Very bad stockmen.

2237. Are the blacks allowed to keep cattle of their own?—Yes, they do, and horses.

2238. Is there any limit?—They have never been refused to keep any.

2239. Could one man keep a dozen and another none?—At the present time he could. There will have to be a limit somewhere.

2240. What do you think of the site of the station?—I think it is a very unhealthy place myself.

2241. The site of the village?—The site of the village.

2242. Why?—I have been there so many times when it has been damp and foggy and cold.

2243. More so than the township of Healesville?—I think it is.

2244. If it were to be put up to auction to-morrow would it not find purchasers?—I think it would.

2245. Do you know what Mr. Jennings estimates the value of that land at?—No.

2246. Who was stockman?—We had two or three of them. Wandon was the last.

2247. Did you dismiss him?—Yes.

2248. Why?—I found, on going up there, there were always a number of cattle there, and the gates open, and the fences down. I complained of this to Mr. Harris and Mr. Strickland, and they made enquiries as to what this man did. I found that he did not repair the fences, or look after the gates, and that most of his time was spent down at Mrs. Mallory's place at the bridge; also, that he was getting tipped from outside people not to turn their cattle off.

2249. Did you investigate those accusations?—There was nothing to investigate—there were the facts.

2250. Do you ride over the run when you are there?—I go about the run.

2251. The complaint is that the fences are being knocked down by the neighbors?—I do not know who they are. I cannot prove who it is.

2252. It is not likely people would come a great distance to do that?—I cannot say.

2253. Why do you not set a watch?—We have.

2254. A great quantity of strange cattle come there?—A great quantity.

2255. Do you know whether the omnibus horses come up?—I do not know.

2256. Do you impound?—I have told them to impound, but they do not.

2257. Did Mr. Harris ask you to put up a notice?—I told him.

2258. Did Mr. Harris recommend that Wandon should be dismissed from the position?—He said he was no use; he recommended him to be dismissed.

2259. You have not investigated the case at all, except what you were told by Mr. Strickland and Mr. Harris?—I saw for myself.

2260. How do you know he was to blame?—I saw he was to blame; the fences were down.

2261. The man was condemned unheard?—I saw for myself that the fences were down.

2262. You do not know whether they were knocked down?—I do not know what you mean.

2263. If he was to blame he ought to be dismissed; but, unless you could prove it, he ought not to be dismissed?—I did prove it. The fences were down and the cattle were in, and his time was passed chiefly at Mrs. Mallory's.

2264. You did not ask the man?—I may have done so.

2265. You did not try another?—No, I gave it up; it was no use trying.

2266. The cattle have decreased a great number?—Yes.

2267. When Mr. Green left, you had over 400 head?—Very likely. I do not think they were mustered when Mr. Green left.

2268. Why do they not milk the cows to supply the people with milk, butter, and cheese?—They can milk the cows if they like; but there has always been a cry-out about those cows. There used to be one to each family. I went up on one occasion, and I think there were thirty cows in milk. I went up to the stockyard to see how the calves looked and I found five in. I enquired and found that one night they would put in one lot and another night another lot; the consequence was that all the cows were being ruined.

2269. Have they any place to keep milk in if they wish to make butter?—I do not know that they have.

2270. Do you know what becomes of the milk now?—It all goes down to the house.

2271. What would eight cows give?—It depends upon the cow.

2272. Would five quarts be a low estimate?—Ten quarts, I should think.

2273. So far as we can gather, all that milk goes down to the house; and a large proportion is made into butter?—Is that stated by the black men?

2274. Yes, and Mr. Strickland confirmed it. Have you heard at all that the skim-milk is allowed to what they call the "weaners," that is, women weaning babies—half a cup once a day?—I never heard it.

2275. Can each family keep a cow?—That used to be the case, but when I found they were ruining the cows, I put a man on to milk.

2276. Do not you think it was owing to a deficiency in the management that they were using the cows improperly?—The manager could not make them do anything.

2277. Harris says, "I made a beginning to fence, and Captain Page stopped me;" is that right?—Perfectly untrue. When you were up the other day, I sent for him and asked him if that was correct; he said it was not correct, but he was not allowed to explain.

2278. He says he suggested other improvements, such as planting additional hops, and the suggestion was not received?—He would not be allowed to make such suggestions. He knows the opinion of the Board, that if we had a few less acres it would be better. All the men's time is taken up with the hops; we have no men for other work.

2279. Have the hops been remunerative?—Yes, it pays well enough, but we have too much of it; Captain A. M. A. we cannot do anything else.

[*Mrs. Bon handed in the following letter from Harris:*]—"22nd October 1881, Coranderrk. To Mrs. Bon. From Thomas Harris.—I was requested to come to Melbourne by Captain Page. I went, and got a reprimand from Mr. Curr; told me that I had gone direct against the Board, that I had done wrong. Leaving the office, told Captain Page if there was anything to go up I would take it. I got my ticket and came to Richmond—to Kew. Captain Page came to the Junction Hotel, O'Shaughnessy's—'What the mischief brought you out here; came out like others to make more mischief, like others.' I want this to be made known, what the Board has done with me on the quiet. Several have advised me to write that are interested in the blacks.—I remain, truly, (Sd.) THOMAS HARRIS. 21 October 1881. When I was called to Melbourne. There is not one man on the station that ever saw Captain Page out on the run, as he stated to me that he had unknown to me. I hope I shall hear from some one again. They may call me down again, if they hear more about it. Try to upset me more. I remain, truly, (Sd.) THOMAS HARRIS."

2280. Is that allegation true?—No, perfectly untrue.

2281. Did you call him down to town?—I sent for him to town with reference to this article in the paper, and asked him if he made those statements. He commenced to prevaricate. Mr. Curr took down what he said; and it was read over to him, and he said it was what he said. The man knew perfectly well what he was about.

2282. He admitted making the statements that appeared in the paper?—He admitted to a certain extent.

2283. Did you follow the man to Kew?—Yes; I made an appointment with him. I said, "I will come down to the coach office; will you be there?" He said, "I will." When I got there I had a parcel, and the coachman said, "I think Harris has gone out to Kew. I will take the parcel." I said, "I have got money here; I will go out to Kew to see him." I got on the coach, and came up with Harris at Kew. I said, "What are you doing here; are you making more mischief in this part of the country?"

2284. Was not that rather an irregular proceeding, taking down what Harris said?—I did not understand that it was this Board that went to Coranderrk.

2285. What was the object of your writing to him?—I saw the article in the *Argus*. There was no intimidation in it.

2286. There can be only one conclusion come to, that you wished to intimidate him?—I do not see it at all. I did not speak to him about the Board. I simply spoke to him about what appeared in the *Argus*. I made no remark at all upon the evidence taken by the Board.

2287. Did his evidence before the Board differ from his assertions to you?—Yes, very much.

2288. Did you follow him to Kew to find fault with him for his statement?—No, simply to give him the parcel and money. We had parted on good terms.

2289. Was it owing to his not being at the coach that you had to follow him?—Yes.

2290. What did you say to him—did you speak to him about anything else but the message?—I said, "What are you doing here; are you making more mischief up here?"

2291. What answer did he give you?—He said he came out to see a friend.

2292. You say there is a great difficulty in getting the men to work. In the report for 1879 there is a return of the number of bushels of hops picked by each, in which it is shown that the aborigines were quite equal to the whites and Chinese?—They can work capitally, but that is contract work—they get so much a bushel for picking.

2293. Would not that system always do?—No; I do not think you could do it at Coranderrk. If we had work like fences to do the system would do, but we have not the men to do it.

2294. Do you think increasing the ground under hops would pay, if you were to bring in white labor?—I would not like to say that. I do not know what white labor would cost.

2295. Do you approve of having white labor among the blacks at Coranderrk?—I do not approve of it, but I do not see how we are going to do without it.

2296. Are you obliged to employ white labor at the time of picking hops?—Yes; we must do it then. Lately we have been employing Chinese as much as possible; they make the best pickers. Do they interfere with the blacks?—No, not at all. White people used to come into the village, and we could not tell what was going on. Chinese give much more satisfaction.

2297. Is there a strict supervision kept over the girls when those people are employed about the station?—Yes, always.

2298. Who superintends them?—Mrs. Strickland and the daughters.

2299. Are they allowed to wander about the bush by themselves?—No.

2300. Has Mr. Strickland instructions to prevent that as much as possible?—Yes.

2301. You never heard any complaint that they were not properly looked after?—No.

2302. Have they been growing any vegetables on the station?—Potatoes were put in last year, and they were a failure; they were a failure everywhere about that place I believe. With reference to other vegetables, I have been told they will not grow; seeds go up.

2303. What kind of seeds?—All sorts—cabbage, onions, and other things.

2304. Harris is the farm superintendent?—Yes.

2305. Does not he grow potatoes?—We have grown potatoes, but last year the crop was lost.

2306. Was there sufficient the year before?—We had a fair crop.

2307. Did they complain to you, at any time, of not getting vegetables, potatoes and cabbages in particular?—I do not remember having any complaint. I will not say they have not done so, because I have sent up potatoes at times.

2308. Could Harris grow any kind of vegetables he liked for the benefit of the station?—The seeds are up there; he is ordered to put in certain things.

2309. Has he the power of making a drain if he believed the water would rot the potatoes?—Certainly he has the power of doing it, if there is anything he mentions that is necessary.

2310. Can he do it with the labor on the station?—Yes, he certainly has the power.

2311. He has the power to grow vegetables if he wishes it?—Yes, he has this power: he takes the number of men that he wants; what he does not want he gives to Mr. Strickland.

Captain A. M. A.
Page,
continued,
3rd Nov. 1881.

2312. Has he ever complained that he could not, for the want of labor, carry on the farm properly, exclusive of the hops?—He may have done that last year. He complained when it was too late.

2313. In planting potatoes, can he plant them in drills or do as he likes?—He can do as he likes.

2314. Can he choose any portion of the ground he likes?—So long as it is fenced in. He knows more about the land than I do. He has said, "I will put in potatoes there, I think," and I have said, "Very well."

2315. Supposing he says that oats would be better here, and barley there, could he do that?—Certainly.

2316. If he thought proper, could he put in the potatoes at any time of the year he chooses?—Any time he likes. He knows the place and the season. If he suggested a thing, I would carry it out for him.

2317. Does he consult Mr. Strickland?—He never consults Mr. Strickland about the planting.

2318. Cannot they grow cabbage, beans, or parsnips at Coranderrk?—I have seen very few there.

2319. Is it an impossibility?—I do not say that. I have sent up plenty of seed, but very few vegetables have been grown.

2320. Do they make jam now?—Yes. I assure you there is plenty of jam made every year.

2321. Where is the fruit got from?—The garden.

2322. Do they put it in pots or buckets or what?—I know they made any quantity of jam. I have sent up any number of pots.

2323. Do you know, of your own knowledge, that the jam gets to the natives?—Yes.

2324. Have you seen it?—Yes, I saw them eating it.

2325. On more than one occasion?—On many occasions.

2326. Where do they make their jam—on their own places?—Mrs. Strickland makes it herself. I am speaking of the children.

2327. Do you make any report when you visit the station?—Not always.

2328. You heard me asking Mr. Jennings yesterday what are the duties and powers of the Board?—The Act lays down the duties and powers of the Board.

The witness withdrew.

Charles Millist examined.

Charles Millist,
3rd Nov. 1881.

2329. What are you?—Draper.

2330. Where do you live?—Kew.

2331. Do you know anything about Coranderrk—have you ever visited Coranderrk?—Several times; not within the last seven or eight years.

2332. Do you know anything of the black people at Coranderrk?—I have camped on the station, but not within the last seven years.

2333. You have not been near the station during the last seven years—have you had any dealings with the station during the last seven years?—I have had dealings through the shop.

2334. Did they buy clothes at your place?—Once or twice. Mrs. Bon brought in a family one day; they were wanting clothes, and she bought them.

2335. How many?—A man and wife and some children.

2336. Were they in need of clothing?—It was a cold night. They really wanted some extra clothes on. The woman was in a kind of white cotton frock, not fit for her to wear. It was no use to her. She had a baby in her arms. Mrs. Bon bought a shawl for this woman, and a jacket for each of the children.

2337. Who paid you for those things?—Mrs. Bon.

2338. How long ago is that?—Two or three years ago. I remember her coming in again with a poor fellow, and she got something for him.

2339. Do you remember a dying man who wanted a blanket?—Yes. Your son (*Mrs. Bon*) came down with a black boy. He was the picture of misery. He had been round to get a night's lodging, and they would not have anything to do with him.

2340. Where did he come from?—From the Melbourne Hospital.

2341. How long was he in the hospital?—I could not say. I know he got a blanket on 12th May 1879 in the name of Jim Webster.

2342. Had he shoes on?—I could not say. He was very bad indeed.

2343. Was he badly clad?—No; but he wanted a bed. Nobody would take him in. It was a very cold night.

2344. Who paid for the blanket—to whom did you send the account?—To the Board.

2345. Did you get the money?—I got it, but I had to apply two or three times for the money.

2346. How were you received?—I was told to go to Mrs. Bon for it; that I had no right to supply the blanket without an order from the Board.

2347. When were you paid for it?—I could not say.

[*Mrs. Bon handed in the following letter:*]—"Office of the Board for Protection of Aborigines, 69 Temple Court, Melbourne, 2nd October 1879. Madam,—I have the honor to inform you that, at a meeting of the Board held yesterday, I again brought under notice the account for blankets purchased by you for Jimmy Webster. I also explained the circumstances under which they were procured. The Board has now authorized me to pay the account, but at the same time wishes you to understand that it deprecates any interference whatever with its affairs, and will not again pay for articles of clothing, &c., the purchase of which was not authorized. I have the honor to be, Madam, your obedient servant, A. M. A. PAGE, Gen. Insp. Mrs. Bon, Kew."

2348. You were ultimately paid?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at nine o'clock.

FRIDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 1881.

Present :

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair ;

Mrs. Bon,
T. Embling, Esq., M.D.,

J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P.

Captain Page further examined.

[*The witness read the following extract from the paper :*—“Mr. Green’s dismissal was the result of his refusal to shift the natives from Coranderrk, the Board having resolved to break the station up. Mr. Green has, from an early period, been connected with the work of ameliorating the condition of the natives, and has been ably assisted by his wife. From 1861 to 1875 they managed Coranderrk in a manner that elicited the admiration of all visitors. Mr. Green thoroughly understands the natives, and knows how to get them to work. He also introduced the industry of hop-growing, and at the date of his dismissal had reached the point of making the station self-supporting. The blacks are an emotional race, and require being led by kindness, not driven by force. The first fault committed by the natives in the eyes of the present management was in 1875, when a deputation of their number came to Melbourne and interviewed the Chief Secretary with their grievance, which was the same then as now, viz., that they did not get on with the new manager, and ‘they wanted their friend, Mr. Green, given back to them again.’ The manager at that time was Mr. Ogilvie, who gave place to Mr. Halliday, and now the manager is the Rev. Mr. Strickland. Each of these gentlemen have been equally unfortunate in being appointed to positions that they are quite unsuited for, in so far as they do not understand the natives. Mr. Page, the present inspector of stations, resents the action of the natives in making appeals direct to the Chief Secretary with respect to their desire to get their old manager back, and so the breach has gone on widening, the Central Board, through its representative, Captain Page, being in antagonism to the natives, for whose care and protection it has been appointed. Mr. Strickland and Captain Page are, unfortunately, looked upon by the natives as being their enemies instead of their friends. It is still the determination of the Central Board to disperse the Coranderrk natives to other stations and sell the land, while they as stubbornly refuse to leave what they call their home.”

Captain Page
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2349. *By the Board.*—What is your object in reading that?—There is a statement put forward that I have had no opportunity of contradicting.

2350. Do you know anything about how the natives deal with the butchers in Healesville?—That is left entirely to themselves.

2351. Supposing then a working man has a wife and children, has he to supply his wife and children out of his own earnings with meat?—He is paid extra for his wife and children.

2352. He has to provide for them?—Yes, unless they are in the orphan-house.

2353. What was your employment before you were appointed general inspector to the Board?—I was living up country, managing some stations, small places.

2354. Not aboriginal stations?—No ; small farms up at Gembrook.

2355. Is it to you a work of love or a mercenary affair?—It is a work of both. I am paid for my services.

2356. Do the aborigines regard you as a friend?—I believe they do. I know a great many do.

2357. Do you act as secretary to the Board?—Yes.

2358. Is it the wish of the aborigines to get rid of you and the Board?—I believe not ; there might be a few.

2359. You say you have the general management—is it just on your part to keep these aborigines without vegetables when you know they are enervated by disease?—Seeds are sent up for them. Potatoes are sent up when they have not got them. They grow potatoes ; and potatoes are sent up, and seeds, as much as they require and apply for.

2360. Have they the power of preparing ground and putting in seeds?—Certainly.

2361. If they are engaged in doing their own garden work are they in a position to earn their own meat?—No ; but if proper representation was made that the men wished to make a garden that could be altered.

2362. Are the aborigines under the necessity of purchasing potatoes from the neighboring farmers?—I have never heard of it.

2363. It might be true?—It might be true.

2364. Mr. Strickland informed us that they are not allowed candles and kerosene, is that the case?—To a certain extent they are. Candles are sent up there in a certain quantity, and if Mr. Strickland thinks they require them he can give them.

2365. Why are their houses destitute of furniture?—They have furniture ; they can supply themselves ; the Board does not supply furniture.

2366. Those who possess it buy it with the money they earn at sheep shearing?—I do not know.

2367. Are you aware whether they have proper beds and bedding?—They have very fair beds and bedding.

2368. When did you last inspect the bedrooms?—I generally go round every time ; I never go to the station without going round.

2369. When was the last time?—I think about two months ago. I am not certain what I did then, I did not inspect all the houses then.

2370. Did you inspect the beds and bedding?—I cannot give you a nearer answer than that.

2371. Do you examine the beds and bedding?—I do.

2372. Are you aware their bedding is such as would engender filth and vermin?—No, I am not.

2373. Are they provided with pillows, sheets, or pillow cases?—No, they are not found in those things, they are found in calico.

2374. In sheeting?—They are not found in sheeting.

2375. Can they make sheeting out of the calico—is it thick enough for that purpose ; are they supplied with sufficient calico to make sheeting of?—I think so ; any quantity asked for in reason is sent up.

2376. Who applies for it?—Mr. Strickland, or the manager of any station.

Captain Page,
continued,
4th Nov. 1881.

2377. How much do you allow for each family?—I do not know how much.
 2378. Do you send up bed quilts or window blinds?—I do not.
 2379. When did you last examine the medicine chest?—Never lately.
 2380. Had Mrs. Dunolly, in her confinement a few weeks ago, to send to Healesville to purchase a bottle of castor oil?—I never heard of it.
 2381. Are you aware that the sick get soup, which they describe as water with fat and maggots?—I do not believe it.
 2382. Did you authorize Mr. Strickland to flog Phinnimore with a rein and buckle?—I did not.
 2383. Have you ever had a complaint lodged with you that he did such a thing?—No.
 2384. Would you approve of his doing such a thing?—No; but I do not believe that he did flog him with a buckle.
 2385. Is it true that, to maintain discipline at Coranderrk, you had to call in the aid of the police?—What do you call discipline?
 2386. When Mr. Strickland cannot maintain discipline—when a man disobeys—if he takes possession of an old hut which is not inhabited, to use as a kitchen, would it be necessary for Mr. Strickland to send for the police to eject him?—He would be the best judge of that.
 2387. Did you authorize him to do so?—I was not there.
 2388. Did you never authorize the police to eject a man from a hut?—I cannot say positively.
 2389. Is it true that Mr. Strickland uses his powers of mimicry at the expense of the feelings of the blacks?—I do not know.
 2390. From the fact that the Aborigines have not made complaint to you, one would think they do not regard you as a friend but as an enemy?—I do not think they regard me as an enemy.
 2391. Would it improve your health to go without vegetables?—I cannot say anything about that, I do not eat much vegetables myself.
 2392. By whose authority do you purchase the drapery at Banks Bros.?—The Board's.
 2393. Do you consider it just or fair to other mercantile houses, selecting Banks Bros.?—I did not select Bank Bros.
 2394. Do you consider it just to other houses?—I do not understand the "justice" about it.
 2395. Why do you not call for tenders, the usual course?—I will explain as well as I can. When I took charge of the matters of the Board, they had been dealing with some other firm that did not give satisfaction; they were dealing with Banks Bros. who gave satisfaction, and I have not been instructed to deal with other people. They have given great satisfaction.
 2396. Would it not be possible to get them equally good and cheaper by tender?—I do not think so.
 2397. Do you call these samples of dress material value for the money?—I do.
 2398. Where do you send the fancy goods said to be given as discount?—They go about to the different stations.
 2399. What share go to Coranderrk?—I cannot say.
 2400. When did the last lot go?—I cannot say.
 2401. Are you a judge of drapery?—Pretty good.
 2402. Do you never call in the aid of an expert?—I take the wives of missionaries as judges.
 2403. Do they come to Melbourne to choose?—No.
 2404. How can they choose before you purchase?—All the clothing gives great satisfaction.—[*The witness read the following letter from Mr. Stähle.*]
 "Captain Page—Dear Sir,
 "All the clothing, &c., have now arrived, and I desire to thank the Board and you heartily for the very liberal supply which you have granted to this station. The clothing, hats, boots, &c., are all of excellent quality, and I hope that while they will be a great comfort to our people that they may also give proof in some measure that they appreciate your kindness towards them. The serge which, along with the wincey, was intended for winter dresses we would have gladly received, and would be much obliged if it were forwarded in time to use it during the wet and cold winter weather. Enclosed I return, duly signed, the accounts for the goods received, as well as two from the mason for putting up a chimney and for walling and cementing the underground water tank, which, if you will pass for payment, I shall be much obliged.
 "Yours faithfully,
 "(Sgd.) J. H. STÄHLE."
 2405. Would you desire to purchase Coranderrk, were it put up to auction?—I do not think so.
 2406. Do you know that it is commonly reported that Coranderrk is coveted by some people?—I have not the least idea.
 2407. Have these poor aborigines a portion allotted for them in the cemetery at Melbourne?—Not that I know of.
 2408. Was it not recommended many years ago?—I am not aware of that.
 2409. Are they buried among the Chinese?—I am not aware of it. They are buried by the hospital.
 2410. At the expense of the hospital?—At the expense of the hospital.
 2411. Have you inspected the ground set apart for their burial?—I have not.
 2412. Do they get Christian burial?—I know nothing at all about their burial.
 2413. Do the hospital authorities communicate with you when they die?—They do.
 2414. And you do not go and see them decently buried?—No.
 2415. Do you give any instructions regarding their burial?—No.
 2416. They are buried as paupers?—They are buried by the hospital.
 2417. Are they not wards of the State?—Yes.
 2418. Are they amply provided for by the Government?—Pretty well.
 2419. Is the vote not liberal enough?—We can just manage to make it run out.
 2420. Why are they thrown upon the hospital if they are wards of the State?—I cannot answer that.
 2421. Where do you purchase your hardware and groceries?—The hardware I purchase at McEwan's, in Elizabeth street.
 2422. And the groceries?—At Henty's.
 2423. You get those articles at wholesale prices?—All of them.
 2424. You are perfectly satisfied with that?—Yes.

2425. Supposing you buy retail quantities you get wholesale prices?—Yes.
2426. Whether it is a pound's worth, or twenty, or a hundred pounds' worth, do they make any difference?—Sometimes; if I am buying iron I get it cheaper by going to one of the head people.
2427. There is no advantage to you by dealing with them?—Not at all.
2428. Would it not be a saving to call for tenders?—I do not think it would: for this reason, we do not buy all the things at these places. We buy some up the country at the local storekeepers.
2429. How much do you pay for that sugar we saw at Coranderrk?—I could not give that answer at the moment.
2430. Has Mrs. Deans ever told you that the orphan children have vermin in their heads?—Never mentioned the subject.
2431. Have you forbidden the schoolmaster to report to the Board against the management of Coranderrk?—I have never forbidden the schoolmaster. Mr. Deans, the schoolmaster, was in the habit of coming frequently to my office; in fact, always when he came to town, and he would tell me that he wanted a complaint made, at the same time he did not wish to make it. He would talk in a sort of way that he had a complaint to make against Mr. Strickland, at the same time he was to be out of it. I got so tired of it, I said, "Never come to me with a complaint about Mr. Strickland except it is in writing. Be careful when you make a complaint unless you can prove it." Mr. Curr told him the same thing.
2432. Did you forbid him to leave any statement in writing which would militate against the Board?—Most certainly not. When I heard of this enquiry being appointed, I wrote to Mr. Strickland to tell Mr. Deans that he could not leave for England. Mr. Deans came down to me and said he thought it very hard he should be stopped at the last moment; he would lose his passage, and all his arrangements were made at home; he would be away a very short time. I did not want the man to go; at the same time I thought it hard he should lose his passage-money.
2433. He was allowed to go?—He was allowed to go.
2434. You did not wish him to go?—No.
2435. Yet you allowed him to go?—Yes.
2436. You wished to detain him on account of the coming enquiry?—Yes.
2437. How long ago is it since he left?—About two months.
2438. Did he offer to leave a written statement?—Never.
2439. Will you inform the Board who has the appointment of the teacher at Coranderrk?—The Board.
2440. Is it a State school?—No, it is not a State school, but it is inspected by a State school inspector; it is treated the same as a State school.
2441. By request from the Board they allow their inspector to come?—Yes.
2442. The Board can appoint or dismiss the teacher?—Yes.
2443. Is he an efficient man as a schoolmaster?—Yes.
2444. What object have you in keeping Mr. Strickland there in spite of the protestations of the aborigines?—I consider the aborigines should not be the persons to appoint their own manager. We should never keep a manager at all if it came to that.
2445. Do you think their feelings ought to be consulted?—They are very much consulted; but we cannot consult them in everything.
2446. Has this affair of the manager, as regards removing him on account of the blacks, ever been discussed before the Board?—The propriety of dismissing him?
2447. Yes?—The matter has been discussed very much.
2448. Do you consider him a fit and proper person to have the management?—The manager could not be competent at the present time. No man could manage it the way it is now.
2449. Do you not think that some of the views enunciated by Mr. Hagenauer would tend to meet the case—that there should be more of the missionary than the lay element in the management?—I think they want a little of both. Mr. Hagenauer's aborigines and the Coranderrk aborigines are two perfectly distinct people. You cannot compare the aborigines at Coranderrk to those on any other station.
2450. Why?—They are nearly all half-castes, and know so much.
2451. Do you not think it is a mistake perpetuating a race of paupers at Coranderrk?—You cannot get rid of them. They will not go out to work.
2452. I have spoken to the young people at Coranderrk, and I have asked them would they not like to go out to good situations. They have said, yes; but they would not be allowed?—Some of those men will come and say they want to go away for a short time just at the time they are wanted in the hop ground. If they go away then it would be ruination. But if a half-caste wants to go to live in a family, there would not be the least objection.
2453. Do they not go with the intention of remaining away?—Once or twice I thought some were going to remain away, but they always turn up again.
2454. You have control of them up to what age?—Sixteen I think with men, eighteen with girls.
2455. You have stated that Mr. Strickland is there as sole manager of Coranderrk?—He is head man there.
2456. He has the entire management—allowed to act according to his own discretion?—It depends upon what way you mean.
2457. Supposing I apply for a girl over fourteen, has the Board any authority to prevent her going?—Yes, in this way: the girl might go, but you would get fined for taking her unless you had permission.
2458. Could I get a girl by applying to you?—No, not to me.
2459. You say if we take them after they are fourteen years, we shall be punished for taking them away?—Yes.
2460. Under what clause of the Act?—It states there in one of the clauses.
2461. Does not the clause which requires a certificate of engagement certify that the engagement shall be for a period of more than three months?—That is a matter I would not like to say very much about. It is a legal matter.

Captain Page,
continued,
4th Nov. 1881.

2462. Do you remember writing to me (*Mrs. Bon*) telling me that I was liable to a fine of £20 if I gave employment to any of the aboriginals of Coranderrk if they came to my station?—I do not remember, but it is likely enough that I did so. I could have done so. When was it?

2463. It was in the case of Johnny Charles, the shearer before last?—I do not remember it.

2464. Have you any authority over those aborigines after they are the age of twenty-one?—We have no legal authority over them at all. If we had legal authority we should not have any trouble with them in the stations, but when you tell them to do things they can please themselves whether they do it.

2465. Supposing a young fellow leaves the station with a view of earning a little money, why do you object?—Had that man his wife with him?

2466. No?—That is what the Board object to, that a man should go away and leave his wife and family for the Board to keep.

2467. Do the shearers ever take their wives with them?—I cannot answer.

2468. What would you say if you were told that Mr. Strickland has stated he has no power to give the aborigines candles unless in cases of sickness—no power to give a sheet of paper or postage stamps without consulting the Board?—He is not supplied with postage stamps or paper for the use of the aborigines.

2469. You do not approve of their writing to their relatives—have you any objection to the half-caste girls writing to their relatives?—Not the least objection.

2470. I suppose you expect them to provide those things out of their earnings?—I never considered the matter of postage stamps. I never heard it mentioned before.

2471. Do you provide the aborigines with furniture?—Nothing in the shape of furniture is provided, except in the orphan-house. It has never been brought before me at all.

2472. That accounts for the statement made by Dr. McCrea, that the children, and some of the adults, passed their excrements in the gutters before the houses?—It is a good many years since he was there.

2473. Have you a bath-room on the establishment, as recommended in 1865?—There is a bath-room there.

2474. Where is it?—In the dormitory.

2475. I speak of the adults, the married people and children—have you a bath-room on the establishment, as recommended in 1865, for the use of adults and their children?—There is only one bath-room in the place.

2476. Are you aware when Mrs. Morgan's boy was dying, in July last, and required a bed for himself, that she had to cut a blanket in two to supply a covering?—I am not aware.

2477. Are you aware that Mrs. Dunolly, in her confinement, received a blanket from the matron on condition that she would return it when able to leave her bed?—I am not aware of it.

2478. There seems a great deficiency of medical comforts in cases of sickness?—These are simply statements made by Mrs. Bon. I have not heard of them.

2479. Whose superintendence is the medical chest under?—The superintendent. There is any amount of medicines up there. Dr. Elms is paid by the Board.

2480. Does he pay periodical visits?—When he is required. He is certain, I should think, to be there once a month.

2481. In cases of emergency he is sent for?—Yes.

2482. If there is no sickness he might not be there for twelve months?—Yes.

2483. Does he visit on contract?—No; he is paid so much a visit.

2484. How long was William Hamilton's family kept in quarantine?—I think about three weeks.

2485. Why?—Because they had scarlet fever.

2486. How do you know it was scarlet fever?—The doctor told me so.

2487. It was prevalent in Lilydale at the time?—Yes.

2488. Did the doctor visit the patients?—I telegraphed to him to go and visit the place.

2489. Did he order them into quarantine?—I believe so.

2490. Did it spread?—I believe not.

2491. How many cases?—That was the only case I heard of.

2492. We are told it was "Bubberum"?—I am certain the doctor would have told me if he thought it was scarlet fever.

2493. Do you know if there are many dogs on the place?—A great many.

2494. Can you give the number?—I could not. I think there are more dogs than people.

2495. What have you done lately to elevate the aborigines in the social scale?—They are educated as well as they possibly can be, and are taught to work and behave themselves.

2496. Do you consider taking them to the police court has an elevating tendency?—They must go if it is necessary, the same as a white man would. That is unpleasant, but it cannot be helped.

2497. What are they taken there for?—I do not know that any have been taken there lately; now and then there has been a dispute. The last case was when Mr. Strickland flogged one of those boys justifiably. They came and took some children out of the orphan-house. One fellow shook his fist in Mr. Strickland's face, and told him it was lucky he was not thirty years younger. I told Mr. Strickland to summon him for assault.

2498. What charge was laid against this man?—Interfering in his duties.

2499. Has he any right under the Act to touch them?—I think he has.

2500. What was he flogging the boy for?—I cannot tell just now. Mr. Strickland told me the history. I said I thought it ought to be brought before the court.

2501. Did he assault him very severely?—No.

2502. Are you sure he did not injure the boy's head?—I did not see him at the time. A policeman saw him immediately afterwards.

2503. Will you inform us what missionary work has been done during the past three years?—In what way?

2504. What are the duties of the missionary usually?—The missionary work that goes on there is carried on by Mr. Strickland and Mrs. Strickland and the girls. They have a service every evening at Coranderrk, with the exception of Saturday evening. On Sunday they have service twice a day, and Sunday-school in the afternoon.

2505. Do they attend the services?—Very badly of late.

2506. They do not get much religious teaching?—That is one of the ways of spiting the manager—staying away from church.

2507. Through their inattention they lose spiritual instruction?—They do.

2508. How many children have been baptized since Mr. Strickland went there?—I cannot tell without looking.

2509. Do you know if the sacrament is ever administered?—I do not think it is at Coranderrk.

2510. Are the aborigines encouraged to practise cruelties to animals by riding horses with sore backs?—No.

2511. There are no horses ridden with sore backs at Coranderrk?—I do not say that; but not intentionally.

2512. Has anyone been in the habit of writing to you that the sick in the hospitals were deficient in clothing?—Mr. Williams says he wrote to me.

2513. No one else?—That is the only one I remember.

2514. Did I (*Mrs. Bon*) ever write to you?—I do not remember.

2515. Why should that state of affairs exist, that people who have no business with the blacks have to remind you of your duty?—They have not.

2516. Have you noticed the extreme reluctance with which they go to the hospital?—I have found them in the hospital, longing to go home again.

2517. Should not some provision be made for the sick at Coranderrk?—I have thought of it, but I am very doubtful of it.

2518. Mr. Strickland speaks very well of the habits of tidiness of the housewives—why do not you give the housewives furniture, to encourage those habits of tidiness?—

[*Mrs. Bon handed in a letter to the Chairman, who read the same as follows:*—“Office of Board for the Protection of the Aborigines, 69 Temple Court, Melbourne, 15th September 1880. Dear Madam,—I received your note about the coats for Aaron and Reece; the former certainly was the better for one, but Reece had on a pilot jacket, but, as he had got it into his head that he must have another coat, being in hospital, I sent him one and made him happy. I am sorry you will encourage the blacks when they leave the station without leave. They impose upon you. Anything that they are entitled to they can always get, but I will not pet up one man at the expense of others. Bamfield gets fully his share of the good things going, and he is much better off than most blacks. He had boots when the others had theirs, but was not content, but required spring-side boots. I hope you will not interfere again, as it benefits nobody. Bamfield is such a lazy good-for-nothing fellow that no one on the station, black or white, can speak well of him. You have not been to see Lily Edmonds. I hear she requires visiting more than anyone else, poor little girl. She was better yesterday than she has been for some days. I am, yours faithfully, A. M. A. PAGE. The clothing we were speaking of for the hospital people came down with them, and by mistake was taken back again by Mrs. Ruskin, then sent by coach to town, and kept at the Bull and Mouth for several days; so Mr. Strickland, you see, was not to blame.”

2519. You mentioned yesterday that one aboriginal objected to Mr. Vale asking about the meat—will you give the name of that aboriginal?—I decline to give the name just now till I am up at the station.

2520. What salary does the matron receive?—£50, I think, a year.

2521. What are her duties?—To look after the children in the orphan-house.

2522. What else—is that all?—To see the people. As matron she simply has to look after the orphan-house and children, but as the wife of the manager she has to assist him at his duties.

2523. Is she supposed to cut out the work for the women and show them how to put it together?—Certainly; that is part of her duties.

2524. Does she perform those duties?—I think so.

2525. Have you ever heard any complaints from the women there that she did not help them?—No, I have not.

2526. What is Mr. Strickland's salary?—£150.

2527. You heard me examining Mr. Jennings the other day?—Yes. I forget what it was about.

2528. I told you. The reason I wished to examine him was, because he was a lawyer, and an old member of the Board. Do you think he explained intelligibly the position of the Board?—I could not hear what he said.

2529. Did he appear to understand anything about the passes?—There is no such thing as a pass.

2530. Mr. Strickland stated that they have to get a pass or they would not be allowed to leave?—When a black goes away from Coranderrk, and is going away to another station, he will not be received unless he brings a letter from the manager of the other station.

2531. But you have passes for the coach?—That is a coach ticket, not a pass.

2532. What was your salary when you were first appointed?—£400 a year.

2533. What is your present salary?—£500 a year.

2534. Who audits your accounts?—Mr. Langton.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Healesville on Thursday the 17th instant.

(Taken at Coranderrk.)

THURSDAY, 17TH NOVEMBER 1881.

Present :

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair ;

Mrs. Bon,
D. McNab, Esq.,

Thos. Armstrong, Esq., J.P.,

J. Kerr, Esq.,
J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P.

The following petition was handed in :—"Coranderrk, Sept. 5th 1881.—Sir,—The only complaint we have is this, we all wish Mr. Green back here in Mr. Strickland's position. Mr. Strickland is not a fit man here in regard to work and also to the sick people ; he has no idea of tilling the ground or making any improvements on the station, or doing any good for the welfare of the black there ; no potatoes or hay here on the station, and the station ought (to) keep itself in meat, but it does not ; we all have to buy meat. When Mr. Green was here he used to be doing what Mr. Strickland is doing now, that is, he used to preach the gospel and also do the farming work, and also do what Mr. Capt. Page is doing now as inspector, and made a good improvement ; and now it takes three men and there is no improvement. If Mr. Green had the use of the money what is laid now since he left, there would (be) something what the station would be able to pay back. We are all sure if we had Mr. Green back the station would self-support itself. No wonder the visitors that come here and go away and say the station ought to be sold, when we won't be allowed to clear the ground ; the Central Board, and the manager too, are only leaving this open for to give room to the white people to have something to say about it. The only thing we wish is Mr. Green removed back here, and then they will see that (the) station will (be) improved better, and will also see that those who speak against us will see we have a head manager of us. So that (is) all we all have to say. These are the names of our men what are agreeable and hope to be carried out—Wm. Barak, Thos. Banfield, Dick Richard, Thos. Avoca, Terrick Johnny, Thos. Gillman, Lankey, Willie Hamilton, Alick Campbell, Thos. Dunolly, Martin Simpson, Alfred Morgan, H. Harmony, R. Wandon, J. Briggs."

Phinnimore Jackson, aboriginal, examined.

F. Jackson,
17th Nov. 1881.

2535. How old are you ?—About 13.
 2536. Where were you born ?—Mount Hope.
 2537. How long have you been here at the station ?—I think I was here when Mr. Green was at the station.
 2538. You do not know the number of years ?—No.
 2539. Do you attend school ?—Yes.
 2540. You attend school regularly ?—No, not regularly. Mr. Strickland has got me for a mail-boy and grooming for him.
 2541. Are you employed as mail-boy every day ?—Yes.
 2542. How often do you go to Healesville with letters—how many times a day ?—Every day nearly.
 2543. What time of the day ?—I come out of school at three o'clock.
 2544. What time does the school go in in the morning ?—I think it is from ten to twelve in the morning.
 2545. And the afternoon ?—Two to four.
 2546. You lose one hour's schooling ?—Yes.
 2547. Do you do any work but grooming the horses and carrying the mail ?—Lately I dig and cart in wood for the house.
 2548. For the use of Mr. Strickland ?—Yes.
 2549. Where do you get your meals ?—In the kitchen.
 2550. Do you get enough ?—Yes, I get enough.
 2551. Do you get meat ?—Yes.
 2552. You get enough of that ?—Yes.
 2553. As much as you want ?—Yes.
 2554. Do you get enough to wear—trousers and shirts ?—I have only got four pairs of trousers.
 2555. During what time did you get the four pairs ?—I got two pairs since Mr. Strickland came here.
 2556. Four pairs since Mr. Green left ?—Four pairs altogether.
 2557. Do you know how long it is since Mr. Strickland came here ?—No.
 2558. Do you know how many years ?—I think he said he had been here three years.
 2559. Did the two pairs last you three years ?—Yes.
 2560. How many shirts did you get during that time ?—I got two pairs of new shirts too.
 2561. Did you get any undershirts ?—No.
 2562. Have you nothing under that shirt you have on now ?—No.
 2563. What kind of boots do you wear ?—Lace-ups.
 2564. How many pairs did you get during the last three years ?—Two pairs of new boots.
 2565. Do you remember the state of the boots you had when Mr. Strickland came ; were they new or old ?—They were good for a good while after Mr. Strickland came.
 2566. Do you get enough clothes to keep you warm in winter ?—It feels cold without a flannel shirt.
 2567. Have you ever had a flannel shirt ?—We used to have them when Mr. Green was here.
 2568. Does Mr. Strickland give you any money for grooming and chopping wood ?—He pays me, but I do not think it is for fetching in the wood. There used to be a man for wood ; but all the men have left off, and I had to take it.
 2569. Do you get any money ?—Yes.
 2570. Who gives it to you ?—Mr. Strickland.
 2571. How much ?—Two shillings every pay-day.

2572. Did Mr. Strickland ever strike you?—Yes.

2573. Do you remember what day that was?—May 24th.

2574. Was it on Saturday?—Yes.

2575. What did he strike you for—did you have any words with him before?—No; we went for a ride to Healesville on the Friday. As we were coming back we met Alfred Morgan. Mr. Strickland asked him, was he going to run the horse he was on at the races? He said, "Yes." Mr. Strickland told him he was going to see the horses run. I asked, could I go with him? He said, "Yes." In the evening we came home, and I asked could I go for the horse to go with him to see the horses run?

2576. What did you do then?—I went for the horse with Willie Edmonds and Tommy Dick. We could not find it, so we came back; and Mr. Strickland asked where I was; I told him I went for the horses to go with him to the races. He told me to go to my room, and he gave me a good thrashing with his hands. He told me he was going for a riding whip; so I told him I was going to my sister, to show the bruises that were on my back. So he came over and looked for me, and could not find me. He came to my sister's and asked where I was, and she spoke to him about the whipping I got. I went to Lydia's and planted myself under the bed, and Mr. Strickland could not find me; and one of his daughters came and looked for me, and looked under the bed and found me. She fetched me down again, and Mr. Strickland locked the door of the kitchen, and put the bridle reins round me, and led me to my room. He locked the store-room and kept me in there, and put my head between his legs and gave me a thrashing with the bridle reins.

2577. Did he hurt you much?—He hurt my head.

2578. Did it bleed?—Yes; he just shut the door and came out. He came in the evening and gave me a mat and some blankets to sleep on. He shut the door and came out, and came on Sunday morning with a dish of water and washed my head, and took the shirt that had blood on and put it away, and fetched a clean pair of trousers and shirt before the men came.

2579. Who came?—Campbell and Davis—some of the men to see the boys.

2580. What boys?—I and Willie and Tommy. We were all whipped. Campbell asked him, could he go in to see me? He said, "Yes." So Alick Campbell took me away to his place and washed my head and put something on to heal it up. He showed it to Mr. Green. He went to Mr. Tevlyn first; he was not at home. We went to Mr. Green's, and Mr. Green looked at it, and we came home, and Alick kept me at his place, and Mr. Strickland sent for me to go for the letters, and Alick did not let me come; so Mr. Strickland told him he would summon him.

2581. Who washed your head first?—Mr. Strickland; he washed it in the store before the men came.

2582. What did the men wash it for?—Mr. Strickland did not half wash my head.

2583. What were the names of the two boys who were with you?—Willie Edmonds and Tommy Dick.

2584. When did this happen?—Twenty-fourth of May.

2585. Last year?—No, it was when there were races at the Yarra Flats.—[*The Board inspected the boy's head.*]

2586. Are you an orphan?—Yes, but I have got some brothers and sisters.

2587. Was either of those young men that came to you a relative of yours?—Yes, Campbell was my brother-in-law.

2588. Were the other boys little boys?—No, they were as big as me.

[*The two boys, Willie Edmonds and Tommy Dick, were called in.*]

2589. (*To Mr. Strickland.*)—You have heard this evidence; have you any questions to ask this witness?—I would just state, if you please, the facts from my point of view. These boys I consider were (out of school especially) under my control. It has been my habit since I have been here of associating myself with them as a brother or a father. I made it a rule to go about the station cleaning up anything disorderly; Saturdays especially were devoted to this purpose. On two Saturdays I missed the boys—could not find them anywhere; and I told them, if they absented themselves on another Saturday, I would do with my own boys—I should have to correct them. On the occasion of the races referred to, Alfred Morgan asked me if I would allow Phinnimore to go with him to the races. I said, "Certainly not; you men will go, but the boys shall not go." I said, "It will be time enough for them by-and-by, and I know the experience before them would not be beneficial to them." On the day referred to, the boys were again absent from the station. When they came home I asked them where they had been. They said they had been to look for a horse for Alfred Morgan. I said, "In consequence of your disobedience, I will correct you." I sent them into the room, and with the hand part of a bridle-rein I gave them half a dozen cuts each over the back. Phinnimore, when it came his turn to be corrected, made a rush at me and got his head between my legs, I suppose with the intention of knocking me down. I said, "Very well; you have got your head there, now I will give it to you." In taking him to the room where I intended to keep him for the night, I took him by the collar, and, in struggling to get away from me, I lost my hold of him; he slipped against a vessel in the room and grazed his temple. I was sorry he had done so, and in the morning—the Sunday morning—I took him his breakfast and clean clothes, and washed the part that was grazed (it was just as if a pin had scratched it—nothing more), as I would have done if he had been my own child. The boys called to the men from the window as they passed by, and told them they were locked in. Some of the men demanded to see the boys; I said, "Certainly." Two of the men took two of the boys away, and the third attempted to take the third boy away, but I would not allow him to go, and told him I should summon him for interfering with me in the exercise of my duty. I do not know that there is anything else I can say. If they had been my own sons I should have dealt with them very differently long before.

2590. Is there any regulation affecting this station which authorizes you to strike anybody on the station?—The authority the Board would have in placing me in the position as the protector of those children.

2591. Where is your authority for striking them?—There is no authority for not striking them. If I was at Coranderrk, and the boys needed it, I should do it again.

2592. Do you know that the law recognises the extreme impropriety of corporal punishment?—I do not.

2593. Did you report it to the Board?—I did.

P. Jackson,
continued,
17th Nov. 1881.

2594. You gave a full account ?—I did.
2595. Did the boy's head bleed ?—It bled as if it had been scratched by a pin.
2596. Why did you wash it ?—I washed it and the rest of his face too.
2597. Is he not old enough to wash himself ?—Yes. When I went out I said, "I am sorry this has occurred ; where is it ?" We found the place, and I washed it as if he had been my own boy. The thing is cruelly and frightfully exaggerated.
2598. Was his face covered with blood ?—No.
2599. Were you going to the races ?—No.
2600. When did you summon this young man ?—The next court day but one following.
2601. What was the charge ?—Interfering with me in the execution of my duty.
2602. You did your duty in beating those boys ?—In doing my duty as superintendent.
2603. Did you not tell the deputation that came up last time that, when the men asked for the boys to go away, you said, "Yes, you can take them away, if you can better them" ?—That was as to the two boys.
2604. Was the charge insubordination ?—Yes.
2605. Are those men under your authority ?—Yes.
2606. By what authority ?—As Superintendent of Coranderk.
2607. How do you establish a case of insubordination against those men who are not under your authority as servants ?—Any one who interfered with me in the execution of my duty, whether an aboriginal or a white man, would be liable to be given in charge.
2608. Why did you not summon them to attend the next court ?—It so occurred that I was in Melbourne the next court day.
2609. Insubordination is when a man who is under your orders rebels against your orders ?—The man that attempted to take that boy took him and said, "I will take the boy away." I said, "No, you will not."
2610. Why did you detain the boy ?—Because this is his home ; he is under my special care.
2611. If you ordered one of those boys to do anything, and any other person under your control should tell this boy not to obey you, would you consider he was interfering with your authority ?—Yes, I should.
2612. Did you consider that Alick Campbell was guilty of insubordination ?—Yes.
2613. Was he a relative of the lads ?—So they say ; I do not understand aboriginal relationship.
2614. Do you pay him for working for you at all ?—I do not ; I pay him in this way :—He has been on the whole a good, obedient, useful boy. When the cows are wanted, Phinnimore fetches them. When the letters are to be posted, I can rely on his being in time to take them. When there is anything to do, he will come in and help. A more orderly gardener you will not find in Victoria. I said to him, "You are a good boy ; you are growing up to be a young man ; to show you you are appreciated, I will put you on the pay-list." I put him on at the sum of 2s. a week. It has been represented that I took the boy and employed him as my servant ; he is not my servant, he is the servant of the station.
2615. Does he chop your firewood ?—There are sixteen children in this house to be provided with washing and cooking.
2616. You are paid a certain stipend ; do you pay this boy to chop your firewood. Is it right to take a boy from your school to do your work ?—There are certain times when it is necessary for the work to be done. There is a man who brings the firewood, and a man chops it up.
2617. Do you deprive him of one hour's schooling every day to go to the post-office at Healesville ?—Yes.
2618. He goes away an hour before the school comes out ?—Yes. I may say that the lady who teaches the school is so anxious to get her letters that the boy is sent out frequently to know if he can go for the letters.
2619. You mentioned that you went round the station on Saturday ; is the dress you have on now your usual style of dress ?—Certainly not ; I keep an old suit.
2620. Did Alfred Morgan go to the races ?—Yes.
2621. Did he take any of the boys with him ?—Not my boys.
2622. (*To Tommy Dick.*)—How old are you ?—Thirteen.
2623. Are you as old as Phinnimore ?—Yes, older.
2624. Where were you born ?—Mount Hope.
2625. Do you remember going to the races at Yarra Flats ?—Yes.
2626. You did go ?—Yes.
2627. When ?—On Monday—on the Queen's birthday.
2628. After the thrashing ?—Yes. Alick asked Mr. Strickland could he and I go, and he said yes, and we went.
2629. Did you hear him say yes ?—No, Alick said it.
2630. Did you know that Mr. Strickland stopped Phinnimore from going to the races ?—He would not let him go.
2631. Do many of the men here go to races ?—(*Phinnimore.*)—Yes.
2632. (*To Tommy Dick.*)—Do they run horses at the races ?—Yes.
2633. Did Mr. Strickland give you a thrashing for going to the races ?—No, because we went for the horse.
2634. Did he hurt you ?—Yes, he made a mark on my back.
2635. What with ?—A bridle-rein.
2636. *By Mr. Strickland.*—How did you see the mark on your back ?—I felt it, and the other boys told me it was there.
2637. *By the Board (to Willie Edmonds).*—Did you get a whipping with the bridle-rein ?—Yes.
2638. Was your back sore ?—Yes.
2639. *By Captain Page (to Phinnimore).*—You stated just now that you had had, since Mr. Strickland has been here, two pairs of trousers and two shirts ?—Yes.
2640. I find you got two pairs of trousers since July and two shirts since July ; what did you do before ?—I had trousers of my own that I got from Mr. Green.
2641. What age were you when Mr. Green left ?—I do not know what age I was.

The witness withdrew.

Alick Campbell, an aboriginal, examined.

Alick Campbell,
17th Nov. 1881.

2642. Do you remember the 24th of May of last year, 1880?—Yes.
 2643. What were you doing?—Working in the hop paddock.
 2644. Did you go to the races at the Yarra Flats?—Yes, I went to the races.
 2645. Who went with you?—Bobby Wandon and Gillman.
 2646. Did any of the little boys ago?—One.
 2647. Which?—Bamfield.
 2648. Did Tommy Dick go?—Yes, he went.
 2649. Did he go with you?—No.
 2650. He went to the races?—Yes.
 2651. Do you know why Phinnimore Jackson did not go to the races?—Because Mr. Strickland flogged him, I think.
 2652. Do you know whether he did?—Yes.
 2653. Did you see him do it?—No.
 2654. You did not take the boy away from him?—No, but on Sunday morning I took him away.
 2655. Was he flogging him then?—No, not then.
 2656. He had him shut in?—Yes, that was on Sunday morning.
 2657. The races were on Saturday?—On Monday, I think; I do not remember.
 2657A. Was it the day before the races or the day after that Mr. Strickland flogged the boy?—I think it was before the races.
 2658. Where was the boy when you took him away?—He was in the room here, in the brick building.
 2659. Was there anything wrong with him?—Yes; a fellow came up to me in the morning and told me my brother-in-law was flogged very seriously. I did not know anything of it. He was locked in there about four o'clock on Saturday evening. About eight o'clock on Sunday I asked Mr. Strickland if I could go in and see him. He said, "All right." He brought the key, and I went in and saw him.
 2660. What state was the boy in then?—His head was bleeding.
 2661. Was it bleeding then?—Yes.
 2662. Was it a big cut?—About that long—[*an inch or so*].
 2663. What did you do with the boy?—I stood there alongside of him, and one of the chaps said, "Take him out." Mr. Strickland turned round and said, "Take him out, if you can better him outside." So I took him out.
 2664. What did you do to him then?—I took him to my place.
 2665. What then?—I took him away to Healesville.
 2666. What to do?—To show him to the police.
 2667. Did the policeman see him?—No, he was not at home.
 2668. Did you wash him?—No, Mr. Strickland washed him.
 2669. You did not see him washing?—No.
 2670. Who washed the blood that you saw on his head?—My wife washed that.
 2671. Did she put a plaster or bandage round it?—No, only just a bit of rag round it.
 2672. Where did you go then?—Brought him back here and never said anything more about it.
 2673. Were you summoned to Healesville?—Yes.
 2674. Were you fined at Healesville?—No.
 2675. What were you summoned for?—I could not say; for taking the boy out, I suppose.
 2676. Out of the house?—Yes.
 2677. Did not Mr. Strickland tell you to take him out?—Yes; he told me if I could better the boy to take him, so I took him.
 2678. Was your case called on at all?—No.
 2679. There was nothing further than giving you the summons?—That is all.

The witness withdrew.

Alfred Davis (aboriginal) examined.

Alfred Davis,
17th Nov. 1881.

2680. How old are you?—I do not know; about twenty-one, I think.
 2681. Where were you born?—On the Loddon.
 2682. How long are you here?—I could not say; I came when I was about three years old, I think.
 2683. Do you remember the 24th of May of last year?—Yes.
 2684. How do you remember that day?—I went in to see Phinnimore.
 2685. Where?—In the store.
 2686. What day of the week was it?—Sunday morning I went in to see Phinnimore. I asked him what was the matter with him. He said he got a cut on the head. I asked him if Mr. Strickland had done it. He said he kicked him there, and hit him with the buckle of the reins.
 2687. Was he bleeding?—It was bleeding then.
 2688. Did you do anything to the boy?—We said it was better to take him over to the police and let him say what he would think of it. So we took him out. Mr. Strickland said, "If you can better him outside, take him"; so we took him.
 2689. Did you go with Alick Campbell with him?—Yes, and Johnny Charles.
 2690. Did Mr. Strickland accuse you of interfering with him?—Yes.
 2691. Did he accuse you here?—Here.
 2692. Did you interfere with Mr. Strickland?—No; he told us to take him out, so we took him at his word.
 2693. If he gave you leave how could you interfere with him?—We did not interfere.
 2694. Were you summoned for interfering?—Yes.
 2695. Were you fined?—Yes, £1.
 2696. You never obstructed Mr. Strickland?—No.
 2697. Nor abused him?—No.
 2698. Were you allowed to give your evidence in court when you appeared in court?—Yes.

Alfred Davis,
continued,
17th Nov. 1881.

2699. Did you make that statement?—Yes.
2700. Had you any witnesses to prove that you did not interfere with Mr. Strickland?—Tom Harris.
2701. Was he present in the room?—No, he was outside at the time,
2702. What evidence did Tom Harris give to exonerate you; if he was outside he could not give evidence. You say Tom Harris was over at the court?—Yes.
2703. He told the court that you did not interrupt or say anything to Mr. Strickland; what did Harris say?—(No answer.)
2704. Can you tell us why the bench fined you £1?—Because I was taking the boy without leave.
2705. Did you plead guilty to that or deny that?—No.
2706. Did you take him away without leave?—No.
2707. You think you were not fairly treated at the court?—No.
2708. Did you explain to the magistrates that you did not take the boy without leave?—Yes.
2709. Did they believe you?—No.
2710. That is why you were fined?—Yes.
2711. Did you pay the fine?—Yes.
2712. You have not been summoned since?—No.
2713. What is your occupation here?—Poling in the hop garden.
2714. When the poling is all done what do you do?—Tie hops.
2715. You work in the hop ground doing something or other?—Yes.
2716. When there is no work in the hop ground where do you work?—I never was out of the hop garden.
2717. You work in the hop garden all the year round?—Yes.
2718. Do you get paid for that?—Yes.
2719. How much do you get?—I do not know.
2720. You cannot tell?—No.
2721. What do you do with the money you get?—It goes to the meat.
2722. Does it buy all the meat you want, or do you get into debt with the butcher?—Yes.
2723. The money does not pay for all the meat you eat?—No.
2724. Are you married?—Yes.
2725. Is your wife living?—Yes.
2726. Have you any children?—One.
2727. You cannot keep yourself your wife and child with the money you earn?—No.
2728. Do you work all the time?—All the time, except wet days.
2729. Do you get enough to eat besides the meat?—We are out of flour sometimes, and out of sugar and tobacco.
2730. Are you allowed tobacco?—Yes.
2731. Mr. Strickland gives you so much every week?—Yes, every week he gives us two sticks, but it is not enough; it does not last through the week.
2732. You run out of flour and sugar?—Yes.
2733. Do you get enough tea?—Yes.
2734. Do you get coffee?—No.
2735. Nothing but tea?—Only tea.
2736. Do you get oatmeal?—Yes.
2737. How do you use that?—Make porridge.
2738. You eat that?—Yes.
2739. Do you get any barley?—No.
2740. Any raisins?—No.
2741. Or currants?—No.
2742. Any milk?—We have a cow of our own.
2743. Have you a garden?—Yes.
2744. Do you grow cabbage?—Yes.
2745. Do you grow enough cabbage?—Yes, and onions and potatoes.
2746. When you run out of flour how do you manage?—Depend upon the neighbors.
2747. If they all run out how do they get it?—Buy a loaf.
2748. You do the same with sugar, buy it or do without?—Yes.
2749. What quantity do you get of sugar?—Four pounds of sugar.
2750. Is that for you both?—Yes, two pounds each.
2751. Who weighs it out?—Tom Harris.
2752. How old is your child?—Ten months.
2753. Do you get any vegetables—potatoes?—No.
2754. Have you got any potatoes during the last three or four years?—No, we had to buy some once.
2755. Do you get enough to wear?—I have two colored trousers and this one.
2756. How many do you get a year?—One pair.
2757. How do you manage to have three now?—One I had before—it was supplied before.
2758. When did you get the last pair?—I could not remember; last year, I think.
2759. You got none this year?—No.
2760. Are you sure it was last year?—Last winter.
2761. Do you wear any drawers under the trousers?—No.
2762. Do you get plenty of shoes?—No.
2763. How many pairs?—One a year.
2764. If they wear out in six months do you go barefoot the other six months?—Either buy it or go without.
2765. Do you get any socks?—Yes.
2766. How many pairs?—One pair a year.
2767. How many of this kind of shirt (*the blue shirt*) do you get?—One a year.
2768. Have you anything underneath that?—A shirt.

2769. What kind of shirt?—A cotton one.
 2770. How many of those do you get?—Two.
 2771. Do you wear flannel?—No.
 2772. Do you ever apply for flannel for your wife to make shirts out of?—No.
 2773. Do you feel healthy?—Sometimes I have a bad cold.
 2774. Would getting a flannel do your cold any good—have you ever asked for one?—We asked for one before.

2775. Why did you not ask for flannel?—We did ask for flannel, they said there was none.
 2776. Who said so?—Mrs. Strickland; she said we would have to wait till it came up in the loading.

2777. Did the load come up since?—
 2778. Did you ask since?—Yes, my wife asked.
 2779. Did she get it?—No, we had to sign our names before we got it.
 2780. You would not sign your name?—No.
 2781. Can you read writing?—Yes.
 2782. How much garden have you got?—I do not know.
 2783. Is it as big as this room?—A little bigger, I think.
 2784. Cannot you get seed?—I got seed, but it did not come up.
 2785. *By Captain Page.*—You said you had had one pair of trousers this year?—Yes.
 2786. If I tell you you had one pair on the 27th of August and another on the 7th September, of this year would you remember it?—I do not remember that.
 2787. *By the Board.*—You cannot remember whether you got trousers a little time ago?—Yes, we got a pair this year.

2788. Were you here when we were here before?—Yes.
 2789. Did you get a pair of trousers a week or two before?—This pair.
 2790. Is that the best pair you have?—I have a pair of white moleskins.
 2791. As good as this pair?—A little better.
 The witness was requested to bring in the other pairs of trousers and left the room for the purpose, accompanied by the Rev. F. P. Strickland. He returned after a short absence with two pairs of trousers which the Board examined. Mr. Strickland also brought a pair of trousers which he said he found hanging on the witness's fence, but the latter declared that they belonged to another aboriginal who was then away from the station.

2792. *The witness (to Captain Page).*—Did my mother write to you for a pass?—Not that I remember.

2793. *By the Board (to the witness).*—Why did she want a pass?—To come here.

2794. Where from?—From the Wimmera.

2795. *To Captain Page.*—Did Maggie Buscombe write to you for a pass?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Annie Hamilton (aboriginal) examined.

2796. How old are you?—I do not know. I came in Mr. Ogilvie's time.
 2797. Where did you come from?—Euston.
 2798. Where were you married?—Here.
 2799. What part does your husband belong to?—Kilmore.
 2800. Have you any children?—Three girls and one boy.
 2801. Are they healthy?—Two of them were sick, when they said it was fever.
 2802. When they said it was scarlet fever?—Yes.
 2803. Do you think it was scarlet fever?—I do not think it. He had a sort of scab.
 2804. What does your husband do?—Work in the paddock.
 2805. Do you get enough clothing?—One pair of boots a year.
 2806. Do you get enough to keep you warm?—No, two flannel petticoats.
 2807. Flannel jackets?—No, I used to wear them but I had to knock it off.
 2808. Do you get flannel to make shirts for your husband?—No, we have to buy them.
 2809. Do you get enough rations?—No, we are out before the week is out.
 2810. How do you manage?—From my friends, who have more than I have.
 2811. Do you pay it back?—Yes, when I get my rations.
 2812. That will make you short the next week?—Yes.
 2813. Do you ever have enough to last you the week?—No, the children eat it and run me out of rations.

2814. How old are they?—One four, the other three, and a baby one year old.
 2815. How much do you get for them?—Half a ration for the four-year old and the three-year old, until they are full grown.

2816. What kind of rations do you run out of—everything?—Yes, sugar and flour and tea.
 2817. Do you get any meat at all except what you buy?—No.
 2818. Do you pay for it?—I pay when my husband gets paid. We go in debt. Perhaps we get it on Friday, and not then till Tuesday. Sometimes he goes fishing to make the bill less.
 2819. Do you get plenty of blankets to make you warm?—Only one a year for the children and all. Do you wear them out before the end of the year?—Yes, when we wash them they get worn out.
 2820. Have you a good bed and bedstead?—I bought an iron bedstead.
 2821. Have you got a mattress?—Yes. We had to get the straw; we were not allowed to get straw one year so I cut some rushes from the hill.

2822. Have you a good hut?—Yes.
 2823. Is it warm?—Not lined. The wind comes in. We had to line my bedroom with bags.
 2824. Do you get good health yourself?—Not always. I am sometimes sick.
 2825. Do you get any medicine when you are sick?—Not medicine to cure me. Sometimes I have to go without. The medicine I get is nothing but water almost.

Mrs. A. Hamilton,
continued,
17th Nov. 1881.

2826. Does it taste of brandy or wine?—No, no taste at all.
 2827. Have you to buy your own candles?—Yes, and kerosene.
 2828. Do you get any currants?—No, except at Christmas day.
 2829. How much do you get?—A pannican or so.
 2830. Does your husband ever go to stations to work?—No, only to Wappan.
 2831. When your husband has been in the habit of going to Wappan did you ever go with him?—No, I was at home.
 2832. When you are sick what do you complain of?—A pain in my side and a cough.
 2833. Does your husband go shearing?—No, he was milkman at Wappan.
 2834. He always brought home a cheque for you?—Yes.
 2835. And with that you buy your furniture?—Yes.
 2836. Do you remember when you went to Melbourne last time with the children?—Yes.
 2837. How were you dressed—had you plenty of clothes?—I bought what you saw on me.
 2838-9. But when you came to Kew where did you get the clothes?—From the store where you (Mrs. Bon) bought me the shawl and little coat for my daughter.

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Caroline Morgan, aboriginal, examined.

Mrs. C. Morgan,
17th Nov. 1881.

2840. Have you been long here?—Seventeen years I think I am.
 2841. You came here immediately the station was formed?—Yes.
 2842. Where do you come from?—The Loddon.
 2843. Were you married then?—No.
 2844. You got married here?—Yes.
 2845. Where does your husband come from?—My first husband came from Kilmore, my second from Echuca.
 2846. How long have you been married this time?—Six years.
 2847. Have you any children?—Yes.
 2848. Any by the first husband?—None now. My last one died lately.
 2849. Where?—Here.
 2850. How many by the present husband?—Three living now.
 2851. What is the age of the oldest?—Six now. He would be seven on the 14th of January.
 2852. Do you have good health or are you sick?—I was always a sickly woman. I was never very healthy.
 2853. Were you healthy where you were before you came here?—I do not remember.
 2854. You have always been sickly here?—Yes.
 2855. What do you complain of, is it consumption?—Liver complaint I have.
 2856. Does the doctor ever examine you?—Dr. Elme says I have got the liver complaint. He ordered me sometimes to take cod liver oil.
 2857. Did you get cod liver oil?—Yes.
 2858. Do you get it regularly?—I take it until I cannot keep it down.
 2859. When you require it do you get it when you ask for it?—Yes.
 2860. You are never refused?—Sometimes.
 2861. Do you get any other medicine when you are sick—wine or brandy?—No, no wine, a little brandy sometimes.
 2862. Can you tell good brandy from bad?—No, I could not.
 2863. You do not know whether the brandy you get is good or bad?—No.
 2864. Do you feel it burning your mouth when you get it—what quantity do you get?—I do not know how much. I know it is a very small drop, not a nobbler.
 2865. Is it mixed with water?—I do not know.
 2866. Do you get enough rations?—Yes, I get enough rations.
 2867. To do you all the week?—Yes.
 2868. Do you ever run out?—I get enough if I do not sweeten my children's maizena and sago and such things. If I just use the sugar for tea I have enough rations.
 2869. If you use the sugar to sweeten the maizena and sago you run out of rations?—Yes.
 2870. Do you get those things when the children require it?—Yes.
 2871. Do you get enough flour?—Yes.
 2872. And enough tea?—Yes.
 2873. Do you get rice?—Yes.
 2874. Do you get any meat?—No, no station meat.
 2875. Do you get milk?—Yes, but very little.
 2876. Do you get it for the children?—Yes.
 2877. From the house?—Yes, from a cupfull to half a cup.
 2878. Have you a cow?—Yes, we have a cow now.
 2879. You have plenty of milk now?—Yes.
 2880. Whom does the cow belong to?—To the station.
 2881. When did you get the cow?—Lately.
 2882. Since we were up?—Yes.
 2883. Your husband has to buy meat from the butcher?—Yes.
 2884. Does not all the money he earns go to buy meat?—Yes.
 2885. He has no spare money?—No.
 2886. Does it pay for the meat you get?—Sometimes it does and sometimes it does not.
 2887. How often do you get meat from the butcher?—Twice a week—Tuesdays and Fridays.
 2888. How much do you get each time?—Sometimes five pounds, sometimes six pounds and seven pounds.
 2889. You do not see it weighed?—Yes.

2890. Where is it weighed?—He weighs it all; I have it in my book; I make the butcher put it down.

2891. He weighs it on the scales he carries in the cart?—Yes.

2892. How much a pound does he charge you for it?—If it is beef he charges 6d. a pound; corned beef, 2½d. a pound.

2893. What kind of beef do you get when you say it is 6d.; is it steaks or sirloins?—Any part—mostly neck.

2894. Are you sure he charges you 6d.?—That is what he says.

2895. Is the price put down in your book?—Yes.—[*The witness was requested to produce the book and sent for it accordingly.*]—This is from the 1st of this month.

2896. Whom do you get it from?—Allen.

2897. "Five pounds fore-quarter, 1s. 3d.; eleven pounds fore-quarter, 2s. 9d.; ten pounds at 3d., 2s. 6d." Have you got the book you kept before that?—No, I finished with that one; my husband said it was 4½d. for any other part except the roast beef, that is 6d.

2898. Do you get enough clothing from the station?—Not enough to make me a dress. I get a piece sometimes five yards and a half and sometimes six yards and a half. I was showing Mrs. Bon a piece of black stuff six yards and a half.

2899. Did you get that from the station?—Yes.

2900. How many yards in that dress?—I do not know; I think it is about the same.

2901. Do the five yards and a half make all the flounces and things?—No, I had to ask for another piece.

2902. Did you get the other piece?—Yes, with a little talking over.

2903. Do you get enough underclothing?—No, I do not get enough petticoats. I cut my petticoats for my little boy's shirts, because I do not get any flannel for him.

2904. Have you got under-flannel on your body?—No; there is flannel come lately. They want us to sign for it now, which they never did before.

2905. The flannel only came up lately?—Yes; I did not get my under-flannel yet.

2906. Until you sign for it?—No; my husband did not get any flannel shirts yet.

2907. Do you get good boots?—Yes.

2908. How many pairs a year?—I do not know.

2909. When they are worn out do you get a new pair, or have you to go barefooted any time?—Last year I only got one pair.

2910. Did they last you all the year?—No.

2911. You had to go barefooted?—Yes.

2912. How long did you go barefoot?—Three or four months, I think.

2913. Do you get stockings?—Yes.

2914. Do you get enough of them?—One pair with the boots, and when we wear them out ask for another pair.

2915. Do you get them whenever you ask for them?—Sometimes.

2916. Do you get any towels?—No, no towels.

2917. Any pocket-handkerchiefs?—No.

2918. Any ribbons?—No.

2919. How do you manage without towels?—With what few shillings we have over we might have a couple of towels.

2920. Do you ever get flannel to make shirts for your husband with—do you make shirts for your husband?—Yes.

2921. Where do you get the flannel?—From the house.

2922. Whenever you want it?—No, not whenever I want it.

2923. Does he always wear flannel shirts?—Yes.

2924. You get the flannel for him and make the shirts?—Yes.

2925. You do not cut up your petticoats to make shirts?—No.

2926. How many shirts does your husband get in the year?—Only two.

2927. Say anything you have to say—do not be frightened?—[*The witness handed in a paper.*]

2928. Who wrote this?—Tommy Dunolly wrote this.—[*The Chairman read the same as follows*]:—"This is my evidence. Coranderrk, November 16th 1881. I have asked Mrs. Strickland for a pair of blankets for my sick boy. She told me that she must write to Captain Page first. Then I told her, must my little boy be perishing with the cold till you get a letter from Mr. Captain Page? She told me she had orders only to give a pair blankets for every hut. Then I told her, what must I do then, I have three beds? Then she told me that she did not know. I then told her that we always got blankets for the children before she came here. Another time I asked her for three pannicans. She also said that Captain Page never gave her orders to give them out to the huts. I told her that we got knives and forks and pannicans before she came here. She said she would write to Captain Page about these things; but I never heard nothing more about them since until I saw one of Annie Hamilton's girls coming up with a pannican from Mrs. Strickland. So I went down and asked her if there were any pannicans came lately. She never said yes or no, but just turned around and said, "How many do you want"? I said, "Three, if you please." So she gave them to me, so I thanked her for them, and then I came away home. My husband also asked Mr. Strickland for a pair of boots for my poor sick boy, Marcus, and Mr. Strickland said there was none; so he said he would send in for a pair to Healesville; so he sent in for a pair and I got them. So when pay-day came, Mr. Strickland took 10s. of my husband's wages to pay for the boots. We thought that Mr. Captain Page was to stand responsible for those boots, but it seems we had to pay for them. When my poor sick boy was very bad he was longing for eggs; so my husband tried in the neighborhood and could not get any; so my sick boy was dying. He asked Mr. Strickland to send to Mr. Captain Page for some eggs; so Mr. Strickland said he would see. So when Mr. Strickland came up and visited him, the sick boy asked him again about the eggs, and Mr. Strickland said, "Well, my boy, if I send to Captain Page he would laugh at me for the idea of sending for eggs to town from up country." So I told Mr. Strickland that my husband tried round about the neighborhood for some eggs and could not get any. Milk I get very little; I get from half of a cup to a cupfull—never more than. So anything we ask for we get very little of it. Caroline Morgan. +"

Mrs. C. Morgan,
continued,
17th Nov. 1881.

2929. (*To Captain Page.*)—You have heard this letter read—have you anything to reply to it?—I never heard anything about it before. I never heard anything about the boots; it has never been reported to me.

2930. (*To the Witness.*)—How many of your children have been baptised since Mr. Strickland came?—None.

2931. How many of your children have never been baptised?—Not one was baptised.

2932. How did you do for a blanket for your dying boy?—I had to have words over it.

2933. Had you to tear a blanket into two?—I asked Mrs. Strickland if there was a blanket for my sick boy. She said Captain Page had given her no orders to give blankets to the children. I said, "What am I to do—I must have a blanket for the children?" She sent it to me next day. I tore it into two—I have two beds. The children cannot sleep together on account of one having a chest complaint. I tore that; I gave them my blankets along with it.

The witness withdrew.

Alice Grant, aboriginal, examined.

Alice Grant,
17th Nov. 1881.

2934. How old are you?—Twenty.

2935. Where were you born?—Yea.

2936. How long have you been at this station?—Shortly after it commenced.

2937. You are single?—Yes.

2938. What do you do here?—I take the teaching as a monitress with Mrs. Deans, and do the washing for the children. I used to do Mrs. Strickland's ironing, but I do not do it now.

2939. When did you give up the ironing?—About three weeks ago.

2940. *By Captain Page.*—Did you refuse to do it?—Yes.

2941. *By the Board.*—Were you receiving wages for doing it?—No.

2942. Why did you refuse?—Because I did not want to do it.

2943. Were you told not to do it?—No.

2944. Where do you get your meals?—We get our meals with Mrs. Strickland.

2945. Do you get enough to eat?—Yes; breakfast, bread and treacle; dinner, roast meat—sometimes boiled—and sometimes soup; and tea, bread and treacle, and jam for the elder ones, if we ask for it.

2946. Do you ever get butter?—Sometimes, but the butter is sometimes cream.

2947. Where is the butter made?—Inside.

2948. On the station?—Yes.

2949. You get enough food?—Yes.

2950. Do you get milk in your tea?—Very seldom.

2951. Do you get it when it is on the station?—Yes, when we ask for it.

2952. Who serves out the meals?—I think all the Miss Stricklands.

2953. Who is cook?—Eda cooks.

2954. Do you get enough clothing to wear?—Yes, I have enough dresses; but I have only two flannel petticoats since Mr. Strickland has been on the station, two chemises, and one night-dress.

2955. Do you get boots and shoes?—Yes.

2956. Plenty?—Yes.

2957. And stockings?—Yes.

2958. Do you get any neckties or laces?—We buy our own neckties.

2959. What becomes of all the fancy goods that come up?—We have not seen any ribbons; we got some ties last Christmas.

2960. Were you ever paid for any work?—No.

2961. How do you get those nice gold earrings?—Mr. Harris paid me for doing his washing.

2962. You are allowed to do that?—Yes.

2963. You buy those things with the money?—Yes.

2964. Who finds the soap and things for washing?—Mrs. Strickland gives us the soap.

2965. To wash Harris's things?—Yes.

2966. Would you like to go out to a situation?—I should like to go very much.

2967. Have you ever communicated that to Mr. Strickland?—No.

2968. Have you told Captain Page?—No.

2969. Have you told Mrs. Strickland?—No.

2970. Has any one asked you to go out to service?—No.

2971. You do not know whether you could get employment anywhere?—No.

2972. Have you a relation at service?—A friend named Sophy.

2973. If a situation was found for you, you would like to go?—Yes.

2974. I suppose you would like, if you had permission, to go out and earn money for yourself?—Yes.

2975. You do not believe in working for nothing?—No.

The witness withdrew.

Captain Page stated that, during the whole time he had been general manager, an amount of less than £10 had been spent in fineries and extras.

Miss Eda Brangy, aboriginal, examined.

Miss E. Brangy,
17th Nov. 1881.

[*The witness handed in the following paper*]:—

"Coranderrk, November 15th 1881.

"Sir,—I am now about to bring my complaints before you. When we used to have our meals in the big room, we used to be locked up, and if we wanted anything it was given through the wires, just like we were prisoners. We never got any blankets since Mrs. Strickland has been on this station; the only two that got blankets were Bella Lee and Lizzie Edmonds; the blankets that I have got are from Mr. Green's and Mr. Halliday's time. Mrs. Strickland gave Tommy Dunolly a blanket, because his wife was ill, and said that Tommy Dunolly was to return it. And beside, Mrs. Strickland used our blankets on her own bed and on her daughters' beds too. And about the washing

I used to do for Mrs. Strickland and receiving no wages for it: I once asked Mrs. Strickland why did not she pay me for washing for her. So she said that she was not going to pay us orphans. Bella Lee and Mary Ann are doing Mrs. Strickland's washing, and they don't receive any wages. Mr. Strickland came home from Healesville one afternoon, and what do you think we saw? A bottle in his pocket containing liquor, because we could smell it as soon as he came near to us. I got three witnesses—Tommy Dick, Alick Briggs, and Joseph Hunter. Mrs. Strickland is supposed to be the matron, but we find it very different indeed. Instead of Mrs. Strickland giving out the orders, the Miss Stricklands give out the orders. What we have to do? Mrs. Green never sends her daughters out to order us about like the Miss Stricklands do. When Mrs. Strickland is inside she would send out one of her daughters to watch us, like a cat watching for a mouse; not so with Mrs. Green. I think we have reason to complain about the treatment we get here. And when we are out of bread we are obliged to send up to Tommy Dunolly, and beside bake damper; and beside Mrs. Strickland keeps back some of the loafs until the baker came, and then she would give us the stale loafs, and take a new loaf for her table. And, again, Mrs. Strickland never come into our bedrooms to see if they are all right; but if she knew that any visitors were coming up to see this station, she would be on the look-out to see that all was clean, and also the big room, and the little children would be made to put on their best dresses; but if anybody didn't come, there would be the difference. The only food we get for breakfast is bread and treacle and sometimes steak. Not so with Mrs. Green; we would get everything we wanted. There were two men here, named Mr. Wilkie and Major Bell. They used to eat the Government rations, and also the Miss Stricklands used to send down milk every morning, and that is the reason that sometimes we used to get short of bread. But if Mrs. Green was back we would be satisfied. Miss Strickland teaches the boys in Sunday school. When they were reading, Miss Strickland says to David Banfield, 'You and your father are leading the people astray, instead of telling them of God.'—Sir, I am yours truly, EDA BRANGY."

Miss E. Brangy,
continued.
17th Nov. 1881.

2976. How old are you?—Twenty-one.
2977. You are not married?—No.
2978. How long have you been here?—Twelve years.
2979. Where did you come from?—Upper Murray.
2980. Are your father and mother here?—No.
2981. Did they come here with you?—No.
2982. You were brought here alone?—My sister came, but she died in the hospital.
2983. What was her name?—Amelia.
2984. What do you do here?—Mrs. Strickland's washing and scrubbing and the scrubbing in here.
2985. Anything else?—Help the boys go round the place cleaning up.
2986. Do you cook for the other girls and boys?—Yes.
2987. Can you make butter?—Yes.
2988. Who taught you?—Mrs. Green.
2989. Do you do any sewing?—Yes.
2990. Do you make any clothing for the little children?—Yes.
2991. Do the other girls do that?—Yes.
2992. Do you get any money for what you do?—No.
2993. Not a penny?—No; every Christmas I got a present from Mrs. Strickland.
2994. What was the present?—A print dress.
2995. Would you like to go out to service?—Yes.
2996. Do you think you would be happier away or staying here?—Yes, happier away; we cannot go to visit our friends here.
2997. You can go to the huts in the station?—No, we cannot go anywhere; we are not allowed to go to fish.
2998. Are you allowed to go and fish if Miss Strickland goes with you?—Sometimes, if she has got time.
2999. Do they go often with you?—Not very often.
3000. Do you think you would be content if you got a situation in town?—Yes.
3001. Would you like to leave all the people here and not come back to see them for twelve months?—Yes.
3002. You think at present you would not want to come back in a month?—No.
3003. Do you get enough clothing to put on?—Yes, we get enough clothing, but we do not get any underclothing.
3004. No flannel petticoats?—Only once.
3005. Since Mr. Strickland has been here?—Yes.
3006. Has that lasted you all the time?—Yes; I got one in Mr. Halliday's time. I got two colored petticoats from Mr. Strickland and one flannel petticoat.
3007. How many dresses do you get?—Only one, when Captain Page sent up the things this year.
3008. Did you get one last year?—Yes.
3009. Who makes them?—I did myself.
3010. Who showed you how to make it?—We have a pattern given by Maggie Farmer.
3011. And you cut it out yourself?—Yes.
3012. You get your meals inside the house?—Yes. We do not get very much meat; we could not eat it yesterday; we were going to keep it for the Board, but the dogs ate it.
3013. Who gave it to the dogs?—Mrs. Strickland.
3014. Have you ever been baptized?—No.
3015. Do you have service here—preaching in these buildings?—Yes.
3016. Often?—Every Sunday, and every evening in the week.
3017. Do you attend every evening?—All that are in the house, and some come in from outside.
3018. And you attend twice on Sunday?—Yes, and Sunday school.
3019. Do you lead the singing?—Alice Grant.
3020. Do you know the difference between the various kinds of religion—between the Presbyterian and Church of England?—Yes.
3021. What are you?—Church of England.

Miss E. Brangy,
continued,
17th Nov. 1881.

3022. Have the orphan children any shoes or stockings?—No.

3023. *By Captain Page.*—Did you say you had only one dress this year?—Yes.—[*The witness produced another dress.*]

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Laura Deans examined.

Mrs. L. Deans,
17th Nov. 1881.

3024. You are the schoolmaster's wife?—Yes.

3025. You are acting now in his place?—Yes.

3026. How long is it since Mr. Deans went away?—The 6th of September he sailed. He has now sailed again for Australia.

3027. You have conducted the school ever since?—Ever since. They have never had a half-holiday, without Mr. Strickland asks for a boy to be away to work in his garden, or sometimes a girl will be away to work for Miss Strickland.

3028. Is that frequently the case?—Almost always. There is one boy kept out, and there is one girl kept out every day.

3029. Not the same girl?—No; turn about.

3030. How many have to do that?—All the elder ones. On washing days the two eldest girls are kept out to do the washing.

3031. How many days a month does each girl lose?—As a rule, the elder girls attend two days and a half or three days a week, and Phinnimore not more than two days a week on an average. I have never let Phinnimore out without Mr. Strickland's permission.

3032. Does Phinnimore not come to school every day?—No, not by a long way.

3033. If he stated that he only loses one hour every day, will that be correct?—No, not correct; because he very often stays out to work in the garden, and then in the afternoon besides. He stays out, as a rule, two and a half out of the five, I think.

3034. He puts in half-time?—That is all; not always that. This week, I think, he is down for one and a half days. He has not been able to write a copy since Mr. Deans left. He says his hand is so shaky he cannot write.

3035. Do you think he is over worked?—I could not say. He says himself he is over-worked. He is thirteen. Phinnimore goes for the mail, and carts the wood, and chops it for Mr. Strickland; and he gets in the cows of a night, and milks them in the morning—seven or eight cows. He does a great deal of work on the station. He works in the garden besides. He has been out all day Tuesday working in the garden. He was not in the school on Tuesday, and has been out half a day besides.

3036. Have you complained to Mr. Strickland about it?—I asked Mr. Strickland whether it was worth while keeping him at school. He said he thought he had enough education, but he still comes now and again.

3037. Did he attend better when Mr. Green was manager?—Yes; very much better. Of course he is getting older now.

3038. You never complained to Captain Page of Mr. Strickland taking children away?—No. I never give the children permission to stay away unless Mr. Strickland asks. I have nothing to do with the mail at all.

3039. You say Mr. Strickland asks your permission?—He sends in word that so many children are going to stay away.

3040. Do you get your letters by the same mail?—I used to. Since Mr. Deans left I get mine by the mail boy, but not in the mail bag.

3041. Are you supposed to be supplied with milk by the station?—Yes; we pay a man to milk the cow.

3042. Is it part of your engagement that you should have a cow?—Yes. We pay a man for milking it, and pay a man for chopping wood.

3043. Mr. Strickland gets all his milking and chopping done for nothing?—Yes; I think the Superintendent has always got that.

3044. He has to provide for all the children?—Yes.

3045. Have you any knowledge how they are fed?—No, I have not. I have never been up there at meal times. The girls have complained to outside people that the meat is not good. I have never been up at meal times. Sometimes they have sent down to me for a little butter, and I have given it to them.

3046. Do they seem healthy and to get enough nourishment?—Yes, they seem pretty strong. Sometimes they will send down and ask me if I have any eggs or butter.

3047. Are they well clothed?—Very well clothed, but they have come lately very untidy—before the first inquiry. Very often I had to ask the outside people to mend the young children's clothes. Since the first inquiry they have come much better, but they have never been the same since Miss Robertson's time.

3048. Does Mr. Strickland or Mrs. Strickland interfere with the school?—The only way they interfere is, the Miss Stricklands can order any girl they want for any little thing.

3049. They do not interfere with your mode of teaching?—Not at all.

3050. You are not paid by results?—No.

3051. You are paid the same whether you have three children or forty children?—Yes.

3052. Have you ever been at a marriage at Coranderrk?—Yes.

3053. Will you describe how the ceremony is conducted?—I could not describe, because I do not know whether he is Church of England, or what his religion is. The children do not know one of the Commandments. When Mr. Deans used to take the Sunday schools they did learn the Catechism.

3054. Who celebrates the marriages?—Mr. Strickland did till the Board stopped it.

3055. Why did the Board stop him?—I do not know.

3056. Did he claim a fee?—I think, in a joking manner, he spoke about a fee for marrying.

3057. Are you aware of your own knowledge that he charged a fee?—I do not know. I do not think he did.

3058. Is it true that a man was married here lately who was said to have a wife living at another station?—It was said so.

3059. Are they on the station?—Yes.

3060. What was her name?—Rachel Barber was her name.

3061. What was the husband's name?—Logan.

3062. Who married them?—Mr. Strickland.

3063. Is that lately?—Not long ago.

3064. How long is it since he was stopped marrying?—About six months ago.

3065. Is Logan here?—Yes.

3066. He married him to this young girl?—Yes.

3067. Was Logan here long?—No, only a few months.

3068. What was the name of the girl who was said to have been buried in her clothes?—Fanny

Mark.

3069. Did you know anything of her?—I have seen her, but I did not see her after her death.

3070. Was she well attended during her illness?—I could not say. My husband saw her after she was in her coffin.

3071. Have you never made any complaint to Captain Page in regard to those interferences?—I have never made any complaint at all. What my husband has done I do not know.

3072. Was your husband forbidden to leave any complaints in writing?—Not forbidden.

3073. Was he told not to leave any?—He asked the question whether it would be necessary, and was told it would not.

3074. Do the men go out shooting on Sunday?—I saw a man and his wife come home last Sunday from fishing and shooting. I know there was a little girl very severely thrashed while my husband was here by Mr. Strickland, and I think my husband made a complaint to Captain Page.

3075. Did you see the girl thrashed?—I saw Mr. Strickland chasing her round the school. I saw her arm (she slept in Mr. Strickland's house) during the night, and her arm had to be bathed during the night.

3076. Is there any other information you have?—Only one thing—that, in my opinion, Mr. Strickland takes too much to drink, and that he is unaccountable for his actions. Last Saturday week, if I had seen my husband in the same state as Mr. Strickland, I should think he was the worse for drink. I saw him fall once in the front of my house, coming down the hill; the horse came home with the saddle on its back without him; and on Sunday he kept crying for no reason whatever. He seemed as if he could scarcely do his work. At other times the men have told me things; but I never thought much of it till I saw it myself. On another occasion a woman was getting married. Mr. Strickland had to be continually reminded of her name, although she was a school-girl in the house.

3077. Have you seen him to-day?—I have not. I have seen him at times quite different to other times. I should scarcely know the same man except by appearance.

3078. Are the children's heads kept clean?—As clean as you would see in most schools—not thoroughly clean; in all their heads you will find vermin. Still, to outward appearance, they appear clean.

3079. You have some white children in the school?—Yes.

3080. Are they cleaner than the blacks?—I do not know; I have never seen anything in the white children's heads.

3081. Have you anything else you wish to say?—The natives have often come to me when they have been sick and asked for brandy. When brandy has been in the store they have been told there was none, and I have had to supply them out of my own resources.

3082. Are they allowed brandy when they ask for it?—Not when they ask for it, but in a case of sickness or confinement.

3083. *By Captain Page.*—How did you know the brandy was in the store?—It was seen the next day, and Mr. Strickland said he did not know it was there.

3084. Did you make the statement that I told your husband not to make complaints against Mr. Strickland?—You said you thought it would be better not to make any complaints about Coranderrk at all.

3085. Who told you that?—My husband has a letter from you to that effect—it would be wiser.

3086. Have you got that letter?—No, he has it himself.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to to-morrow at nine o'clock.

(Taken at Healesville.)

FRIDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER 1881.

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair;

Mrs. Bon,
T. Embling, Esq., M.D., J.P.,
T. Armstrong, Esq., J.P.,
J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P.,

D. McNab, Esq.,
J. Kerr, Esq.,
G. de Pury, Esq.

John Holland sworn.

3087. You live in Healesville?—Yes.

3088. How long have you been here?—I suppose about sixteen years.

3089. Was Coranderrk in existence as a black station then?—At that time it was.

3090. Have you known Coranderrk since it was established?—Yes.

3091. Have you been visiting there recently?—I have not been there this last four or five months.

3092. Have you been in the habit of working there?—Yes; I was working there when Mr. Green was there, and after.

John Holland,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3093. Have you been there during the last three years?—Yes; I was there when Mr. Strickland was there. I built the house the schoolmaster is living in at the present time. I put the iron roof over the school-house.

3094. Were you working by day-work or contract?—Sometimes day-work, sometimes contract.

3095. You have not had either lately?—No; not this last two years I should think.

3096. Do you know anything about how they manage the station from your own observation—do you think they are managing the station properly?—The only thing I know of is, that when I went off they employed another carpenter from town. I was getting 9s. a day, and the other carpenter I heard was getting £4 10s. a week and rations.

3097. Is he engaged there now?—No; he left some months ago.

3098. Do you know his name?—No, I could not tell you his name. He came from Melbourne.

3099. Do you know anything about hop growing?—No.

3100. Have you had any dealings with the manager at Coranderrk?—I have had dealings as far as being employed as a carpenter is concerned.

3101. Has he sold anything to you?—I bought a pair of wheels from him. They were lent to me. I had a bullock team going down to Lillydale, and they broke down opposite the station. I went and asked Mr. Strickland for the loan of the wheels, and he lent them to me, and afterwards he sold them to me.

3102. What did he sell them for?—30s.

3103. Did you pay him the money?—Yes. Afterwards he came and asked me to return them, and I did so.

3104. What reason did he assign for that?—The blacks were kicking up a row about it.

3105. Did you use the wheels?—Yes, I used them, but they were not of much account; in fact, I spent over 30s. repairing them.

3106. Thirty shillings was full value for the wheels?—Quite.

3107. Did the blacks complain to you that they were not well treated?—No.

3108. While working there did you think that they were well treated?—I think so. As well treated then as they were when Mr. Green was there, to my idea; in fact, more so in some cases.

3109. All the blacks know you—do you think if they had any complaints they would make them to you?—Yes; but I think myself that they were very well treated, and the half-castes too much so. They never did work half the time.

3110. Do you think they were able to work more if they would?—Yes; I have seen them in the time of working hours sitting on the fence for an hour at a time.

3111. When they were paid for working?—It was in working hours.

3112. Whom were they working under then?—Under Harris. Not long since, not a fortnight ago, I passed the place. There was a poor man dead there; and when I passed with the cart they were sitting on the fence, and they were on the fence when I came back.

3113. How long were you away?—Three hours.

3114. Those are the half-castes that are supposed to work regularly on the hop ground?—Yes.

3115. Do you attribute that to mismanagement of the overseer?—It is a very hard job to manage them.

3116. Were they as a rule, as far as your observation goes, well clad—good clothes?—Yes; as a rule I have always seen them well clad.

3117. Had you an opportunity of inspecting their rooms to see what clothes they had?—I have been in several of the rooms working.

3118. Do you know the whole of the run—do you know the boundary?—Yes, pretty well.

3119. There is a large portion of it not fenced in?—Yes; all the back part.

3120. Do you think if it was fenced in they would be able to keep other people's cattle out?—I should say so, if it was properly fenced; but the fences are often knocked down.

3121. Are the fences belonging to other people in the neighbourhood knocked down?—Not to my knowledge. It is very hard to keep the fence along the road, because the floods come and wash it away. I have seen ten and fifteen panels washed away at once.

3122. Do you know anything peculiar about those fences that they should not be kept up as well as others?—No, I do not.

3123. If it were your own farm do you not think you would be able to fence it in and keep the neighbours' stock out?—Yes, I think I could.

3124. You would take care it was done?—Yes, I think so.

3125. Do you think if the place were properly fenced in and stocked it would be capable of supporting itself?—Yes.

3126. With proper management it would be made self-supporting?—I do not see why it should not.

3127. Do you think the hop ground is a remunerative speculation for the station?—Yes.

3128. According to the evidence we have had, all the labour is taken up with the hop ground—there is no one to mend fences?—Yes. I will guarantee to manage it with one-half of the men there now. I have often as many as eighteen on the ground at one time.

3129. I suppose thirty are not too many in the season?—Not in the picking time. Scarifiers and ploughs will go over a lot of ground.

3130. You say you could do with half the number of men—does that mean half the number of blacks who are working there?—Yes. If I had from six to ten men at work I would guarantee I would manage all those hops.

3131. Are you alluding to blacks or white men?—Blacks.

3132. You would pay them for their work?—Yes, if they work.

3133. In that case they cannot be well managed just now?—They do not work.

3134. You think you could make them work?—I do not know. It is a hard job.

3135. Do you think you could make them work?—I could not say.

3136. You have been a great deal among the blacks here—do you think you could get as much work out of twelve of them as would carry on the hop ground?—I could not say.

3137. If you were to offer them a fair day's pay, would they not give a fair day's work?—They might; but they are lazy. I do not know whether I could get the blacks to work now. I must say they

did work much better when there was a leader to go with them to work. I remember Mr. Green going with them to work in the paddock. I have seen them work far better then.

John Holland,
continued,
18th Nov. 1891.

3138. Does not Harris go with them?—Yes. I have seen the manager that was before Mr. Strickland, Mr. Halliday, go where they were sitting on the fence. He has told them to go to work, and they would not go to work.

3139. Do you think it is necessary to gain their affections before you can get them to work?—Yes; I think it is. I have known Mr. Green to carry tobacco in his pocket, to give them a cake now and then, and they worked far better.

3140. Do you think it is a healthy place for them?—I think it is. Healesville is, and I do not see why it should not be.

3141. It is as healthy as Healesville?—Yes; it is higher ground.

3142. You are not so near the floods in Healesville as you are there?—No; there are no floods there except on the flat.

3143. Do you think there are any pure white people about here whose children are better cared for than the black children are?—No.

3144. Or better clad?—No. I do not think there are any better cared for than the blacks about here.

3145. In fact, you think that kindness has almost spoiled them?—Too much kindness; a little would be very well.

3146. Do you think Mr. Strickland is too kind or too harsh?—I think he is too kind.

3147. Does he go among them much?—I do not see him.

3148. How does he show his kindness?—I have heard him talking to them. He speaks very kindly to them.

3149. Have you ever seen him frighten any of them?—No. He does not know anything about farming.

3150. He does not know anything about hop growing?—No.

3151. You do not think he can plough?—I never saw him. I do not think he interferes with the work.

3152. As a minister, does he see that the people are religiously instructed?—According to what I have heard him say and do—what I have seen, he does.

3153. Do the blacks make the hop-poles?—They are bought. They are cut in the bush.

3154. Who provides them?—Anybody. It is contract work.

3155. What do they charge for them?—From 15s. to £1 a hundred delivered. It is according to the distance.

3156. Who has the getting of those poles—Mr. Strickland or Harris?—I do not know.

3157. According to the Board's instructions to us, Mr. Strickland has the superintendence, Mr. Harris has the farm under his control—in a case of that kind, would Mr. Strickland get the poles or Mr. Harris?—I think they have to refer to the higher power—the Board.

3158. Is it the Board who call for tenders?—I think so; I do not think Mr. Strickland has any power in getting the poles.

3159. *By Captain Page.*—You were saying you could make the station self-supporting—to support what number of people?—Yes, if they would work.

3160. How many people are you going to support?—Those that are there now.

3161. Do you know what it would cost to support 100 people?—I could not say; I think the hops would go a good deal towards it.

3162. If you do not know how much it would cost, how can you tell whether it would be self-supporting?—I think it could be made self-supporting.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Lucas sworn; examined.

3163. Have you been long in this locality?—Two years, about.

3164. What is your occupation?—Hop growing.

3165. Are you acquainted with Coranderrk?—Pretty well.

3166. Do you often visit there?—I do not often visit—I do occasionally.

3167. Have you been there recently?—Yes.

3168. Do you notice how the people are treated there?—I know nothing about their treatment there.

3169. You know how they are fed?—No.

3170. Do you know how the place is managed?—I can give a pretty fair idea by the way things look, and from what I know by personal observation.

3171. What has been your observation?—That it has been mismanaged.

3172. Are you alluding to the hop station?—The hop ground. From my own observation the drainage is imperfect; there is not sufficient drainage.

3173. What next?—In the drying there is a good deal more expense incurred than is necessary.

3174. You say the ground is insufficiently drained?—Yes.

3175. Is it properly worked—ploughed and kept clean and properly poled?—In the matter of hop-poles, I think you pay an excessive price for them—nearly twice as much as anybody else.

3176. What do they pay?—As far as I am able to ascertain —

3177. Do you know what they pay from your own knowledge?—Not from my own knowledge, but I know what I pay. Mine cost from 3s. 6d. to 10s. 6d. per hundred, delivered. Those at 10s. 6d. are very much more substantial than the ones at Coranderrk, and last longer.

3178. Do you require for your own use poles as long as they require at Coranderrk?—Poles are not required longer than 14 feet.

3179. Are your hops in the same state of maturity as those of Coranderrk?—Our hops require as long poles as the Coranderrk hops. There was a great objection to have the poles so long; it allows the hops to thrash and beat, and deteriorates them in value. If the poles were shorter the hops would not grow so high, and would protect each other.

Robert Lucas,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3180. Do you know the length of the poles they use at Coranderrk?—From observation I should say the average was about 16 feet.

3181. What is the proper length?—I use 14 feet poles, as being sufficiently long for all purposes, and it reduces the cost of getting them.

3182. Is there any danger of the roots being injured by bad ploughing?—I do not understand what you mean by bad ploughing.

3183. Is the ground at Coranderrk properly tilled?—I have not been there to see it done continually, but in the spring of the year it is generally more weedy than it ought to be.

3184. Do you know from your own knowledge whether they plough the ground properly?—No. It does not require very deep ploughing. A shallow ploughing would be sufficient.

3185. You do not know whether they plough deep or shallow?—No. I have only been on the plantation two or three times, and it has always been with Mr. Harris.

3186. Have you been there during the picking?—Yes.

3187. Do they pay sufficient attention to the picking?—Yes; they pick very well.

3188. The blacks are very good pickers?—Yes, very good.

3189. As good as white people?—Better; they are more careful, as a rule. The price of picking at Bairnsdale is 2d. a bushel, at Healesville 3d., with the exception of one individual, who paid 3½d. last year.

3190. When you say Healesville, does that include Coranderrk?—No, it does not. Mr. Kirwood paid 3½d. last year, and he said he was induced to do so because the Coranderrk people paid 4d.; so you see it amounts to a fourth more in the price of the picking, which is a great deal, because that is one of the most expensive operations in the growing of hops. Picking and poling are the two most expensive items, and they have almost paid double for both those items.

3191. The Coranderrk people have?—Yes. Then as to the drying,—ever since I have been in Victoria I have found the charcoal, which is made from the native woods, good, and sufficient for all purposes of drying, and with it I have made some of the best samples here. If I am not misinformed, at Coranderrk they use, in conjunction with charcoal, certain amounts of coke and sea-coal, which is quite unnecessary.

3192. The charcoal from the timber of the locality is quite sufficient?—Yes. The cost of that charcoal to me is about 2½d. a bushel for the very best quality. Then with regard to the distribution of the heat—I find that distributing the heat in small fires on the furnace floor of the kiln has a more beneficial effect on the hops than a large fire in the centre. Having a number of small fireplaces tends to dry the hops much better, with less liability of burning.

3193. Which do they use at Coranderrk?—They use the large fire. I know it was excessively hot in the centre.

3194. Was not the old drying kiln built by the blacks?—I am not aware. That was before I came here.

3195. Do you contract for your poles?—I contracted for the cutting, and contracted for the carting. Sometimes I have carted my own poles, but there is very little difference in the cost.

3196. When do you get them in?—We have got them in now.

3197. You have got them in at 10s. 6d.?—Yes; delivered on the ground. With regard to the tools, I have seen some of the tools called Kentish hopspuds. They are made so clumsy that they are not fit for a man to work with. They are not suitable for the purpose, nor for the men to use.

3198. Consequently the men cannot do so much work?—Not half as much as with proper tools; and if they knew, as I do, they would not attempt it. Another item is manure. There is a large quantity of low-lying land at Coranderrk that the plough would be a benefit to, if the sods were cut up and used for manure.

3199. What kind of manure do they use?—I have seen bonedust there. I do not know what quantity they use; but when I see people going to Melbourne for manure when they have got it at their doors, I say it is an absurdity.

3200. What kind of manure do you use?—Ashes, burnt earth, pulverized charcoal. I use any organic matter in the shape of turfy matter. There is no need to go away for manure; there is plenty on the land. Every one will admit that virgin soil is the best manure. When I say best manure, I mean all other things being considered—that is, its first cost, its utility, and durability—inasmuch as on low-lying land it not only gives its fertilizing influence to the plant, but it increases the quantity of the main soil for all time. It leaves all the superfluous salts and organic matter in the earth for future purposes. Also, this virgin soil serves to fill up the low places, which is beneficial where irrigation is required. There is another point I might mention, viz., that on account of the want of sufficient drainage you are liable to red spider, which perfect drainage would banish. Now we come to the old poles, which are not sufficiently good to stand in the ground for another season. Those can be utilized by adopting the Colly system of poling; they last two or three years longer by that system. Any that are too short for that can be used as uprights in the construction of the string system, patented and introduced by Collins of America. When the Colly system is adopted, the poles stand in the ground all the winter, which does away with the necessity of putting in the poles and pulling them out again—that system is in force here now.

3201. It enables you to utilize a class of poles that are growing close to the station, poles that have been refused because they are too big—their size gives them strength and substance to last in the ground.

3202. You think stronger and thicker poles than they are now using would be better?—There would be very great economy in it.

3203. All through your evidence you have led us to believe that the hop ground is not managed properly?—Yes.

3204. Not according to your idea of proper management?—Not according to my idea.

3205. Have you seen it lately?—Within the last three weeks.

3206. You think the system is wrong?—I feel confident of it.

3207. That is all you have to say with reference to the hop ground?—Yes. With regard to the station, we look upon it here that it does not pay. We cannot see how it can be expected to pay when it is not fenced, and it is over-run with strange cattle, pretty nearly two to one.

3208. Do you know the station cattle when you see them?—I know the strangers better than I know the station cattle. When I see the strangers there I know whose they are.

3209. Would it be possible to keep the cattle out if it was fenced in?—It would, and the expense would be very small.

3210. It is impossible unless it is fenced?—Yes; but any private individual having a station of that size and quality would endeavour to fence it, especially if they had so much labour at their hands to utilize. As to the meat, there is plenty of land there to fatten cattle on—there are paddocks that could be constructed to fatten them in. It seems very absurd that they should have to go three miles away to the butcher and baker, when the station ought to produce everything of the sort.

3211. You think they should kill their own meat?—Certainly; and bake their own bread, and make their own butter and cheese. It would so enlighten the aborigines in the manner of helping themselves that if it cost a little more it would be worth it.

3212. Did you ever manage a cattle or sheep station?—I have had cattle of my own, and sheep of my own.

3213. Do you know the price they pay for meat?—No, I have never seen the bills.

3214. Do you know the quantity that each gets?—No, I know nothing at all about their internal arrangements. On a station like that they ought to have a bullock team.

3215. Have they any bullocks?—No, but they ought to have.

3216. You cannot say whether they have or not?—No; I have never seen any at work. As to the economy of the thing, they ought to have a stockman, and milkman, and bullock-driver among them. They ought to ring the trees, to make the grass better for fattening.

3217. Should the stockman, milkman, and bullock-driver be blackfellows?—Yes, certainly; they are most suitable for it.

3218. If they would not do it when you asked them?—It might depend upon the manner in which they are asked.

3219. Have you had any in your employment?—No, but I have been acquainted with them for nearly thirty years.

3220. Have you had the management of them?—No, but I have worked with them.

3221. Have you not noticed that they are very amenable to reason?—Very; if they feel they are sympathized with they will do anything. They may be led, but not driven.

3222. They like to feel that they are paid for their work?—Yes, I should like to see them paid for their work; but, what is better, I should like them to feel they had an interest in it—to know they were doing themselves some good; not to know that their best efforts were marred through outside influence.

3223. What influence are you alluding to?—To the influence of parties who do not reside on the station.

3224. In what way—in making them believe in imaginary grievances?—No, nor yet in making them believe that there are any grievances at all. I am speaking of the outside influence that is brought to bear upon them by the Board of management.

3225. Are they too lenient or too severe?—Instead of leading them along it is a kind of coercion.

3226. If you had the management of the Coranderrk station, do you think you would be able to make it a good thing?—I do not know; I refused it once, about four years ago.

3227. *By Captain Page.*—By whom?—Mr. Tyler; he asked me if I would go and take it. He made some terms with me; but I said, under the circumstances, I would decline to have anything to do with it.

3228. *By the Board.*—Are you an authority on hops?—I have been among them ever since I was born.

3229. Have you been successful with them?—Yes, sometimes. Sometimes nature has beaten me. There is one other subject I have not referred to, that is, the treatment of the blacks at Coranderrk. I was here in this Court in the Phinnimore case, and the manner in which that case was conducted compelled me to commit a contempt of Court.

3230. What did you get for it?—I got told that if I did so again I would be put out of Court.

3231. What did you refer to?—The Phinnimore case. That is a little bit I do know about—the treatment of the aborigines.

3232. What was it?—Phinnimore was brought here —

3233. Did you know anything of that case before it was brought before the Court?—Not a word; but the Superintendent interrupted the boy in giving his evidence, and interrupted the men in giving their evidence. They ought to have been assisted in giving their evidence instead of hindered.

The witness withdrew.

Henry Clarke sworn and examined.

3234. What are you?—A laborer.

3235. Have you been long at Healesville?—Yes.

3236. How long?—Off and on this last seven or eight years.

3237. Do you know Coranderrk?—Yes.

3238. Have you been in the habit of visiting Coranderrk?—No; I have been there on one or two occasions.

3239. When were you there last?—About two years ago, when Mr. Strickland first came to the station.

3240. Were you ever employed there?—No. I went over one Sunday to hear Mr. Strickland preach. I had passed through the station, going to work further on, fetching poles for our own hop garden.

3241. Do you know anything about how the place is managed?—According to our own working, and different hop gardens about Healesville, they are very backward indeed at the station, always as far as work goes.

3242. Is the work performed properly when it is done?—That I am not in a position to state.

3243. In your opinion they do not do the work when it should be done?—They do not seem to have it in hand; they seem to be behind the rest of the gardens.

3244. You do not know what state it is in at present?—I passed through it this winter, and it was in a bad state then.

Robert Lucas,
continued.
18th Nov. 1881.

Henry Clarke,
18th Nov. 1881.

Henry Clarke,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3245. Is it your opinion the hop ground is not properly managed?—Yes, according to the strength there is on the station to work it.
3246. Do you find fault with the ploughing?—The general working of the garden seems to be backward; any time you visit it it seems to be backward.
3247. Is the ground suitable for hops?—Yes, as far as I know of growing hops.
3248. Is it sufficiently drained?—One spot is not drained at all; there is a sediment of water lying.
3249. Have you noticed whether the crop of hops there is as good as where the ground is drier?—No.
3250. Is that noticeable?—Yes, by the decay of leaves growing up the poles.
3251. It does not yield as good a crop?—No, it cannot where the water lies.
3252. Is it properly ploughed?—I have every reason to believe it is.
3253. Is there danger of injuring the roots of the vines by deep ploughing?—Certainly.
3254. That is injurious?—Yes; we avoid as much as possible interfering with the roots on any occasion; we find it is beneficial to the plants.
3255. Do you think sub-soiling would be beneficial?—Not after the hops are in.
3256. But the ground should be sufficiently drained to get rid of the stagnant water?—Yes.
3257. Do you know anything of the picking of hops?—I never visited the station during picking.
3258. Do you know what they pay?—I heard it was 4d. last year for picking.
3259. Is that too much?—Yes.
3260. How much do other gardens pay?—Three-pence. Mr. Lucas last year introduced a different system—2½d. and 3d.
3261. How did that answer?—It did not give satisfaction; I think an uniform price is fair.
3262. Do you know what Kirkwood paid last year?—Threepence-halfpenny.
3263. Is it not worth a halfpenny more to go to Coranderrk; which would you prefer, 3½d. here or 4d. there?—I would rather pick on the station for 3d. than 4d. here, on account of the rough mode in which the hops are gathered—leaves and everything go into the basket. I am speaking of the whites, not of the blacks.
3264. Is it true that they do it roughly—you could make it pay better at 3d. there than 4d. here; you do not know that of your own knowledge?—No, I do not know it of my own knowledge.
3265. What manure do you use?—Any—pig manure, if we can obtain it, we find the most suitable. We have manure from town, which seems to answer very well at present. We cannot say yet how they will yield.
3266. Do you supply your own manure?—Yes, as much as possible.
3267. Do you approve of putting ashes on the ground?—We are in the habit of grubbing trees and burning, and putting in hops; the hops grow better where the surface has been burned; but the charcoal by itself is put in the ground, and you can go four years afterwards and find the charcoal there, not pulverised in any way. I do not think it is beneficial to the hops.
3268. How long do you think ashes will last?—It is a lasting manure, if obtainable.
3269. Supposing you wanted some hop-poles, what would be a fair price you could get them delivered at on the station?—Sixteen shillings and sixpence.
3270. You do not think you would get them at 10s. 6d.?—Before I answer that I would like to know what sort of hop-poles are required.
3271. The sort you use yourself?—16s. 6d. for that sort.
3272. The ordinary pole, 14, 15, or 16 feet, you cannot get under 16s. 6d.?—I would not like to say it myself. In connection with our own hop garden, we let the contract for 10,000 poles, and parties tendered for 12s. 6d., and could not make it pay. It was raised to 15s. The party was not a strong party to work it. At that time the weather was good. I could have made very good wages at that price; but 16s. 6d. is the price.
3273. Supposing you want 10,000 poles, and a man offered to do it for 10s. 6d., would you accept his tender?—I would see the man could do it for the price.
3274. If he was willing to do it?—I do not think the tenderer would be able to fulfil the contract, and therefore I would not accept it.
3275. Do you know anything of how they manage the station generally apart from the hops?—No. I must confine myself to the hop garden. I might state, in reference to the management there, as far as the blacks are required to work, the seven men, Europeans, would manage the hop garden at Coranderrk.
3276. Are you aware how many acres there are?—I am told there are twenty acres.
3277. And seven men would work the twenty acres?—Yes; seven Europeans. I do not say about the blacks.
3278. As far as the drying, and all that, you have no knowledge of how they dry them?—No.
3279. Have you had any blacks working under you or with you?—Yes; I have had them picking for me when I rented Mr. Kirwood's garden.
3280. How many had you?—Some four or five, I think.
3281. How did they manage it—were they as good pickers as white pickers?—Slow pickers, but clean. I might state that they were the best pickers we had.
3282. And how did you pay them?—Threepence a bushel.
3283. You did not force them?—No; they picked as they liked.
3284. Can you inform us how much they earned?—They might average five or six bushels a day, and might go eight.
3285. What made them leave the station and come to you?—Dissatisfied with the mode of picking there.
3286. Do you find any men willing to work without being remunerated?—No.
3287. How many bushels would a white man pick in a day?—I have picked twenty bushels in a day. I have picked eighteen bushels for Mr. Green at his garden, and I carried my own poles.
3288. Supposing you employed three or four ordinary men, how many bushels would they pick in the day?—The Chinamen come next in order in picking—the largest tallies that were at Mr. Green's, and the same when we had the garden down there.
3289. How many did they pick?—14, 15, and 16 bushels.
3290. Did they pick them as well or as clean?—Yes.

3291. They can do double what the blacks do?—Yes.

3292. Have you any other information you would like to give us in regard to Coranderrk, or anything in connection with it?—I feel it my duty. I was coming up on one occasion from Melbourne, and I might state that Mr. Strickland got off the coach at the late Mrs. Wilson's wine store, and I saw him taking something to drink, and also he put a bottle of something in his pocket—I could not say what it was—and brought it away with him; and as Mr. Strickland is a minister of the gospel, I thought it was rather unusual; and on another previous occasion to that I saw him do the same.

3293. At the same place?—Yes.

3294. That was a colonial wine store?—

3295. Anything else?—Nothing more.

3296. Do you think the condition of the blacks now is equal to what it has been?—No.

3297. More dissatisfied?—More dissatisfied. They seem to be going in and coming out of the township at will. There seems to be no control over them whatever.

3298. You think they are too leniently dealt with?—Yes.

3299. Is it too lenient or is there no discipline?—It might arise from that. I had a contract on the road, and I was working on the road all day, and had an opportunity of seeing them pass all day, coming and going, riding at will.

3300. Do you think they are too lenient?—I could not say.

3301. Are they allowed to do what they like too much for their own interest?—I should say so.

3302. If you were manager there would you like to see them riding about?—I should try to avoid that as much as possible.

3303. What would you do if they would not work for you?—I could not say.

3304. Would you bribe them with a cake of tobacco?—No. I think a deal can be done by a kind word. They will not be pushed. You cannot do that.

3305. Strict measures you think would be a mistake?—I think so.

3306. You think they want firmness combined with kindness?—Yes.

3307. They like to be dealt with as free people, not as slaves?—Yes.

3308. Would you consider people slaves if they were allowed to roam about the country?—Slaves to their own foolish desires. They have a splendid place. I believe the place could be made self-supporting.

3309. The blacks have made that statement that it could be—do you think it is possible?—I am sure it could by judicious management. I have no hesitation in saying that.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Farrell sworn and examined.

3310. How long have you been living at Healesville?—About sixteen years, or more.

3311. You know Coranderrk?—Yes, well.

3312. Have you been working there?—Yes, frequently working there.

3313. Have you been much there during the last three or four years?—Yes.

3314. Employed there during that period?—Yes.

3315. Recently?—I was fencing there, and getting some hop-poles.

3316. When were you last there?—Hardly three months ago.

3317. Did you work on contract?—Always contract.

3318. What was your last work there?—6,000 hop-poles.

3319. How much was your contract for them?—£1 2s. 6d. a hundred, carting them and getting them in.

3320. Did you tender for them?—Yes; I was the lowest.

3321. Did it pay you?—Barely paid me. There was too much carting them in.

3322. You would not care to take the contract at 10s. 6d.?—No.

3323. Could you do it at 10s. 6d.?—No.

3324. Could you do it at 15s.?—No.

3325. Not in the dry season?—In the dry season you might.

3326. At the present time you would not take the contract at a pound?—No, not at any price at the present time. I would not bind myself to bring them.

3327. It is good management to have that work done in dry weather?—You will have to do it so that the timber will strip, and then cart them in in fine weather.

3327a. Who examined your poles and passed them?—Mr. Harris.

3328. Has he the whole management?—He and Mr. Strickland.

3329. Who passed them?—Mr. Harris counted them as they came in, and threw out what he would not accept of.

3330. Have you ever worked in the hop ground yourself?—Yes.

3331. Picking hops?—Yes.

3332. What did you get a bushel?—3d., 3½d., and 4d.

3333. How many bushels a day were you able to pick?—I could not say. I had the children helping me.

3333a. Do you think they manage the hop ground properly?—I think they manage it very well.

3334. Have you any knowledge of any other hop ground?—Yes; they are all round here.

3335. Do they do as well there as elsewhere?—Yes; I think they have as good a yield there as in most places.

3336. At the time you were picking the hops were there many of the blacks picking?—Yes; men, women, and children.

3337. What were they getting for picking?—I believe they were getting the same as I was.

3337a. Could they pick as much as you?—Some of them could pick more.

3338. Did they seem satisfied?—Yes, they seemed quite satisfied.

3339. Do you know anything about how they are treated as a rule?—Pretty well, I think, from what I see of them.

Henry Clarke,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

Robert Farrell,
18th Nov. 1881.

Robert Farrell,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3340. Do you think they are well fed and well clad?—Yes.
3341. Are they as well fed and clad as the laboring classes generally?—I think so. They always get plenty of clothes.
3341a. Do you think they are kindly treated?—Yes.
3342. Did you ever notice any harshness?—No.
3343. By any of the superintendents?—No; I never saw anything wrong with them.
3344. Do you know anything about the management of the station as a station, apart from the hops?—No; all that I have been is working there. I never took any notice of any of them.
3345. Did you ever hear complaints of other people's outside stock going and eating the grass?—Yes, I have heard that. In fact, they could not keep the cattle off.
3346. You say you were fencing there—was that done by contract?—Yes.
3346a. What kind of fence?—Two rails and post.
3347. What was the price?—A pound a hundred for splitting, and a pound a hundred for carting.
3348. Did you put it up?—No.
3349. Is there enough timber to fence the whole of the run?—Yes, there is.
3350. Would you supply the timber for the same price now that you did then?—Yes, I would.
3351. Good-sized rails?—Three inches thick and seven inches wide.
3352. And posts six and a half or seven feet?—Three inches by nine, by seven feet long.
3353. Were you the only tenderer for the hop poles?—No, I do not think so. I think there were more.
3354. Were you in the court at the time of the Phinnimore case?—I was not in; I was outside.
3354a. You did not see what was going on?—No.

The witness withdrew.

William Frederick Wilmot sworn and examined.

W. F. Wilmot,
18th Nov. 1881.

3355. What are you?—Poundkeeper.
3356. How far do you live from here?—About two miles.
3357. How long have you been in this locality?—Sixteen years.
3358. Coranderrk was established at the time you came?—Yes.
3359. Do you know Coranderrk?—Yes.
3360. Do you often visit there?—Latterly I have not been there very much.
3360a. Have you been there many times during the last three or four years?—Yes.
3361. Do you know anything of the management of Coranderrk?—No, I cannot say that I do.
3362. Do you know anything about the hop growing?—I have only just been over there on a visit during harvest time.
3363. Do you know anything about growing hops?—No, nothing at all.
3364. Do you know the whole of the land belonging to Coranderrk?—Yes.
3365. It is not all fenced in?—No.
3366. You are aware that strange cattle come there?—There is nothing to keep them out; it is just the neighbors' cattle.
3366a. It serves the purpose of a common?—Almost.
3367. Do the authorities at Coranderrk ever impound cattle?—No, not lately—not for two years now.
3368. Do you think there would be any difficulty in impounding them, if they desired it?—No, I do not think there would be at all.
3369. It would be as easy to do it there as any other run?—No, because Mr. Mitchell joins it.
3370. That would not prevent them being brought to the pound?—No.
3371. Is Mitchell's fenced?—No, they are both open.
3372. Are the Coranderrk cattle allowed to go on Mitchell's ground?—Yes.
3373. And Mitchell's cattle on Coranderrk?—Yes.
3373a. Are all the selections in the neighborhood fenced in?—Yes, I think they are.
3374. Do you know the number of selections there are up there?—Six, I think, that I know of.
3375. You think they are all fenced in?—Yes.
3376. Is Kelly's selection fenced?—Yes, I think it is.
3377. It is the cattle from the township that go over to the black station then?—Yes, I expect it would be.
3378. Have you any information to give with reference to the station—what you know yourself, of your own observation. Do you think the general appearance of the blacks is as good as it used to be?—Far better than it used to be—better clothed, better fed—no hanging about or begging, as they used to do. They used to come round to the houses begging.
3378a. How long since?—About six years ago.
3379. They seem better fed, better clad, and better looked after?—Yes, a great deal.
3380. Are you in the habit of attending court here?—No, I have never been here when a case from the station has been heard.
3381. You cannot tell whether they come as often before the court as they used to?—No.
3382. Their general behaviour, you think, is better?—Yes.
3383. You have not seen any drunk lately?—No, I have not.

The witness withdrew.

Thomas Harris sworn.—Further examined.

Thomas Harris,
18th Nov. 1881.

3384. You are working overseer at Coranderrk?—Yes.
3385. Have you got the whole control of the hop ground and the farm at Coranderrk?—I have the whole control of the hop garden. As regards the farm, I have no instructions whatever as to what I have charge of, and what I have not.
3386. With reference to the farm, can you do what you like—put in crop or leave it out as you please?—I can put in the crop. Captain Page sends up and tells me to put in oats or potatoes, which I do.

3387. Can you do anything of that kind without Captain Page's orders?—Yes, I can put in oats and potatoes.
3388. Do they restrict the crop to a certain number of acres—do they prevent your putting in as many acres as you like?—No, I have never been prevented.
3389. You can put in a certain number of acres of oats and barley and potatoes?—If I have men in the season to do it.
3390. You are not prevented by the authorities?—No.
3391. Are you allowed to grow as many potatoes as would serve the station?—I could do it, but I have not the labor to do it. A twelvemonth ago, when I wanted to put potatoes in, Johnny Charles was away at the Wimmera. Tommy Farmer was the other ploughman, but he died.
3392. Is want of labor the reason you have not grown potatoes?—It is.
3393. Did you complain to the Inspector?—I did not.
3394. Did the blacks complain to you that they were not getting potatoes?—I put in an acre and a half of potatoes on the creek, where the oats are now, and they died of dry rot.
3395. When was that?—Last season.
3396. Did you grow enough last year to serve the blacks?—The year before there was.
3397. Plenty?—Not so much as there has been. I had about eight tons.
3398. Were they complaining year after year that you were not growing enough to serve them?—Yes; they used to say they had not enough potatoes.
3399. What did you say?—I told them I had not the men.
3400. Did you think it was necessary to grow potatoes for the use of the blacks?—It was necessary if I could have got them in.
3401. You did not consider it was your duty to ask the Inspector to give you more hands to put them in?—I did not ask.
3402. Neither Captain Page nor Mr. Strickland?—I cannot remember doing so.
3403. Did Mr. Strickland ask you to see about putting in potatoes?—The time I had them on the creek he asked me to put them in.
3404. Did he last year?—That was last year.
3405. Does he not always inquire how the farming is going on?—Mr. Strickland takes no interest in the farming work at all.
3406. Do not you receive instructions from the Board?—I never get any instructions; I never got a letter directed to me for the last three years.
3407. Do you find the blacks good workmen?—There are some good workmen.
3408. One witness said he could work the hop ground with seven white men; do you think he could?—I do not think so.
3409. You are left in the supposed charge of the land without any instructions respecting it?—I have no instructions whatever.
3410. No letters to inquire how the station is going on as to the home supplies?—Not to me. When there is a notice of anything comes to me and tells me I will have to stop those men splitting on contract, or anything of that sort.
3411. Do the blacks, when they are working for you in the hops, take spells when they think proper—do they knock off and take a rest?—There are some that do that, but not all; the elderly men I cannot prevent doing it.
3412. Those are the real blacks?—Yes.
3413. Do they stop to have a smoke?—They stop at ten o'clock to have a smoke, and at three in the afternoon, for a quarter of an hour.
3414. How is the labor employed there; there seems to be a great number of men upon the station?—At the hops at the present time. Instead of ploughing, cross ploughing this year; I had to dig one way and plough the other way.
3415. Nearly all the able-bodied men are employed on the hops?—Yes.
3416. How long have you been on the hop ground?—Seven years. The third year after I tried I got a £10 present from the Board, because I was so successful in the drying.
3417. You are supplied with poles by white people?—Yes.
3418. Always?—Not always, not in Mr. Halliday's time; once in his time the blacks got them.
3419. When were you last supplied?—This last poling.
3420. Who supplied you then?—Robert Farrell.
3421. Do you know the price he got?—£1 2s. 6d. per hundred, delivered.
3422. Were they good poles?—Very good poles.
3423. You counted them and passed them?—Yes, I threw out some.
3424. Do you think he had too much for them?—I could not say—he grumbled at the time.
3425. Who called for tenders?—I could not say; I had no letter—no intimation at all.
3426. Were tenders called for?—Yes.
3427. How many tenders were there?—I could not say.
3428. You cannot tell whether his tender was the lowest or not?—I cannot say.
3429. Do you think 22s. 6d. was a fair price for the poles?—I do not know what other gentlemen give for theirs; they have to go a good way back for them now.
3430. Who superintended the cutting of the poles when the blacks did it?—I was with them.
3431. What did it cost?—Two shillings a hundred, and found in rations.
3432. Who carted them down?—There were two of our men carting them out of the paddock, and Mr. Chandler carted them from there.
3433. They got 2s. a hundred for cutting them down and putting them in heaps?—Yes.
3434. Do you get any specified orders how to work the hop ground from Mr. Strickland or Captain Page?—No, only with the manure. I get instructions as to that.
3435. Do you get it from town?—Yes.
3436. Who brings it from town?—Mr. Lalor has the contract for it.
3437. What does he get for it?—I do not know.

Thomas Harris,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3438. You can plough in the hop ground at any time you like without hindrance?—I have instructions to plough.

3439. At any particular time?—No; I can plough it when I like. I am not hindered.

3440. You can manage the working of the place as you like?—Yes; no one interferes with me.

3441. Do you pay more attention to the hop ground than the farm?—I do.

3442. You consider the hop ground the first consideration?—Yes; I think the hops should be looked after first.

3443. You would rather look after the hops first than provide proper food for the blacks out of the farm?—If I did not look after the hops I should have great complaints from the people outside.

3444. Who are they?—People round Healesville.

3445. Do they dictate to you what to do?—No; but they say I do not do this and the other.

3446. Do you do what they wish?—No.

3447. Do you take any notice of it?—No.

3448. The Board have always been pleased with the manner in which you conducted the hop ground?—I have never heard to the contrary.

3449. Do you go to Melbourne often?—No.

3450. When were you there last?—I was called down on the 21st; last Monday, I think.

3451. Who called you down?—Mr. Strickland brought a telegram to me, and said that I was called to Melbourne.

3452. Did you go?—Yes, the next morning.

3453. Did you see Captain Page?—Yes, the next morning at Temple Court, with Mr. Curr.

3454. What did they want with you?—The first thing Captain Page asked was if the men had resisted to work in the hop garden with me. I said no, unless it was the time they were waiting so long for their money. The butchers had refused to give them meat. There was four months' wages due to them, and the butchers had stopped giving them meat, and they said they would go and hunt for meat, which they did. The money came up and they went to work again, and worked on all right.

3455. Did Captain Page or Mr. Curr find fault with you?—Yes, Mr. Curr found fault with me.

3456. For what?—He asked me if I did not consider I was under the Board. I said I was under the Board. He said I had gone entirely against the Board.

3457. Did he tell you what he meant by going against the Board?—No.

3458. What did you understand by that?—That I had spoken in a way I should not in the evidence.

3459. That you did not speak favorably towards the Board?—That is what it was, I suppose.

3460. Did he want you to say what you did not consider just?—He said I ought to have been favorable to the Board instead of going against it; that I was under the Board.

3461. Did he mention anything you said that he was not satisfied with?—About the fence—that it was no use putting the boundary fence up, for the people would come and cut the fence down before my eyes. I said it never had been done. The fence had been cut down once, but I never saw them do it, and Mr. Curr said that it never would be a station until it was sold and occupied by white people.

3462. Did he find fault with you for giving evidence before the Board when sitting at Coranderk or for giving a report to anybody else—did he threaten to dismiss you?—No; but he seemed in a great rage.

3463. How did he show his rage?—He got up and walked past me once, and sat down again, and stamped his foot.

3464. Had you said anything against the Board in your evidence?—Not that I was aware of; only about the fencing and the hops, and about the stock-rider being put off—Robert Wandon. He was stopped by Mr. Strickland.

3465. Did Captain Page reprimand you?—He did not say anything, only questioned me about the men—how they had been at work since the inquiry—had they resisted going to work.

3466. You left the office that day?—Yes.

3467. Did you see Captain Page after that before you returned to the station?—I saw him in Kew.

3468. What brought him after you there?—I do not know what was in the letter.

3469. He came with a letter?—Yes, and some locks for doors.

3470. Did he scold you for going there?—He asked me what the mischief brought me there. He said he supposed I had come there to work mischief like others.

3471. At Kew?—Yes.

3472. How could you make mischief at Kew?—I came through Richmond to see if I could see a man who owed me about £2.

3473. Did Captain Page ask you to meet him at the coach in Bourke street?—Yes. I told Captain Page, if there was anything to come to Coranderk, very likely I should be at the coach office, and if he came there he would see me. When I came to the office I thought about the man that I wanted to see to get my money, and I said to the clerk at the booking office, if any parcel came by Captain Page, he could give it to the driver, it would be all right.

3474. Did Captain Page direct you to meet him at the coach office?—He did not direct me; I told him that very likely I would be there.

3475. You did not wait at the coach office?—No.

3476. Did he send a parcel?—Yes, the locks for the doors.

3477. Do you think, if you had the whole management of the station, you could make it pay?—No one man could take charge of the station himself. He never could take charge of the hop garden and stock and work the farm.

3478. Would you approve of dividing the responsibility of the place?—The superintendent wants to understand farm work, or it can never be worked.

3479. Would you have the superintendent work?—He should be out with the men. I do not say he ought to work, but he ought to be out with them. Mr. Halliday used to be out with the men two and three times a day.

3480. Under a superintendent who knew farming work, do you think the blacks could manage the farm?—I do.

3481. Without white labor?—Yes.
3482. Do you think they could manage the hop ground without white labor?—No, I do not think so.
3483. Where would they be backward?—Very likely some of them would be careless in the pruning or drying; they would never be able to dry.
3484. Who dries the hops now?—I do.
3485. Who attends to the picking while you are drying?—Three years ago there was a man of the name of Ellis who was in the hop ground. The year after that a man was sent named William Dunn, from Melbourne, who has been working with Captain Page and Mr. Le Sœuf, and last season he was sent also.
3486. Do you think it is necessary to have skilled labor at the tying and picking of the hops, to see it is done properly?—Tommy Dunolly and Alick Campbell measured the hops, and two of the boys kept tally of the bushels.
3487. Did they manage as well as Dunn?—They managed as well. I could not see much difference.
3488. Could there be any difference without your seeing?—I could not say as to the measuring.
3489. Could you trust them?—You could trust them if the superintendent was there.
3490. He could not be there and on the farm at the same time?—There is no farm work when the hops are being picked.
3491. You mentioned about dismissing the stock-rider?—Yes; he was dismissed by Mr. Strickland. In the first year that William Dunn was sent to Coranderrk for the hops, when he wanted money, Mr. Strickland told him if he wanted money he could give him a single salary sheet; he could sign it, and send it down and draw his money. Dunn said he could get his money from Captain Page, so for the first year he did not get paid on the station.
3492. Where did he come from?—I think from Gembrook.
3493. Whose servant was he?—I do not know whether he was Captain Page's servant or Mr. Le Sœuf's. I am not sure.
3494. Have they farms at Gembrook?—I think so.
3495. He was not paid in the usual way?—Not the first year.
3496. What was Wandon dismissed for?—I could not say. Mr. Strickland got a letter from Captain Page.
3497. Did he do his work properly?—In my presence he did it properly. It was reported that he had taken money from selectors outside.
3498. To let their cattle run on the station?—Yes.
3499. Who reported that?—I was told of it. I believe it appeared in the paper.
3500. Who told you?—Captain Page told me it was stated so; that he had taken money from the selectors when I was down. He got half a sovereign once. I was down at Lilydale, and there was a cow got away. She ran to the foot of Mount Riddell, and Mr. Rourke said he would give half a sovereign as a reward for her. Bobby Wandon found her, and brought her in, and Mr. Rourke sent over and got her. Wandon sent down for the money by Alick Campbell, and he brought back word that Mr. Rourke had given it to Mr. Strickland one court day. Wandon went and asked him for it. He did not give it at the time, but he got it afterwards.
3501. Was that a bribe?—I do not call it that; it was a reward. Mr. Rourke told him he would give 10s. for the beast.
3502. How do you know he got it afterwards?—He told me he got it.
3503. Do you know the time that elapsed between Mr. Strickland receiving the money and handing it over to Wandon?—I could not say. It might have been a month I should say.
3504. You do not remember exactly?—I could not say exactly. Wandon threatened to take Mr. Strickland to court if he did not give it up.
3505. You do not know why Mr. Strickland objected to give him the money?—I do not.
3506. Had he done anything wrong?—No.
3507. His duties were to put cattle out?—Yes, and to keep the fences up. He did keep them out as much as he could. It was not a post-and-rail fence. It was no use to put up a post-and-rail fence. We had a chook-and-log fence on the Yarra. As soon as they found they could jump this fence they were never away from there.
3508. The boundary on the south side is all open?—It is all open, but there is not much trespassing there. Mr. Mitchell has not many cattle out.
3509. Is all his purchased land fenced in?—Yes, he has told me so.
3510. You say Wandon performed his duties very well as far as you knew?—Yes.
3511. Were you in the habit of going out with him on the run?—Yes.
3512. How long is it since he was dismissed?—I think it must be two years.
3513. Does Captain Page go round the run with you when he is up?—He has never been with me.
3514. Could he have gone round without you—without your knowledge?—I have never known him go off the station round the run.
3515. Could not he go without your knowledge?—He could go, but I do not know what horse he would have.
3516. How much fencing is wanting to be done?—A mile and a half of fencing will secure this side up to the selections.
3517. If Farrell says you have plenty of timber to do that fencing, would that be true?—There is timber on the ground that could be split.
3518. Could the blackfellows do that?—So many of them have got bad colds, but if they were in health they could do it.
3519. Could you spare sufficient of them to do the work?—Not now.
3520. They are employed all the year round?—In the winter time we could spare them.
3521. Are you able to divide your work into winter and summer work, so as to keep the men employed?—It takes all the men in the hop poling and hop picking.
3522. How long does it take for the poling?—A month to dig, a month to prune, and a month to pole. Mr. Burgess used to reckon three months.

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3523. And a month for hop picking?—Yes.
3524. But you employ the men on the hop ground besides those four months?—Tying up, stacking the poles, and hoeing round the hills.
3525. You can work them right up to the time of picking the hops?—There is a month before they are fit to pick, when the men are idle.
3526. They might be fencing?—They have the privilege of going fishing if they get on well with the hop work.
3527. How many months in the year are they not in the hop ground?—I might say four months.
3528. Could they not erect the fencing during the four months they are not engaged in the hops?—Willie Parker and Harmony were putting up the fence.
3529. Supposing a number of the blacks who work with you should say they are employed all the year round on the hops, and have no time to spare for anything else, would that be the truth?—They have been employed with me, but I am not in the hop garden all the year.
3530. What else are you doing?—This last year I was clearing away the timber from the front of the station. I dug large pits and burnt it, and Captain Page said he would stop it if it was not interfering with Mr. Strickland's work, but he let me go on with it. The timber was rung in Mr. Halliday's time, and the people cut it down for firewood.
3531. Did you construct those bridges on the road to Coranderrk?—Yes.
3532. With black labor?—Yes.
3533. Last winter?—No, the winter before.
3534. That is all you have done in the shape of improvements?—All, except what fencing they have put along the road and clearing this hill.
3535. How many years' labor is that?—Two years.
3536. What were you doing the rest of the year when you were not employed on the hops; there is such a small amount of improvements during the last two years you must have been doing something more, or else have been idle?—I can hardly say what we were doing, but my time-book would say what every man has been doing.
3537. We want to know if you have sufficient time to do more than has been done, or if the hops and the farm keep you at work?—This last year I should have had new hop-poles; every pole has been re-pointed, which has taken the men two months to do.
3538. How many men did it take?—I had every man after burning the timber.
3539. How many have you altogether in the hop garden?—I could hardly state.
3540. You stated just now that you could do the hop work in four months; does that include the two months it took to point the poles?—No.
3541. Do they require to be re-pointed every year?—No, not every year; those that are new this year will not require it next year, nor perhaps the year after.
3542. You are employed six months every third year?—Yes.
3543. What time does it take to put the farm in order—how many months during the year?—We could do the ploughing in a month; it was done in twenty-eight days the year before last.
3544. Have you only one man that can plough on the station?—Only one.
3545. How long does it take to put the farm in order in each year?—I should say a month for putting in the crop and a month for taking it off.
3546. That is two months, and six months for the hops, that is eight months; you have four months more for other improvements?—During the times between the hop work and the other work they go and cut a good deal of wood for themselves, to prepare for the time when they go into the garden; they get five or six loads; and some go and hunt for meat, to save their butcher's bill.
3547. What does the man get for ploughing?—This last season he receives the same as the other men; he gets more hours, looking after his horses.
3548. He is constantly employed looking after the horses?—Yes.
3549. He would have no broken time?—If he is looking after his horses two hours a day, he gets paid for two hours a day.
3550. Have you a team of bullocks?—We could make two teams.
3551. Do you work them occasionally?—When we require them.
3552. You have the harness and dray, and all complete?—Yes.
3553. If a witness says you have no team of bullocks he would be telling a falsehood?—He would.
3554. How many bullocks have you?—Ten. We could have many more if we had work for them.
3555. They are doing nothing most of the time?—Nothing.
3556. Is that profitable?—They were drawing posts and rails from the bush.
3557. How long ago?—Before pruning the hops. Morgan used to cart wood for the men, and Mr. Strickland said he did not think it was right to cart wood for the men, so I put him into the hop paddock.
3558. How do the men cart their wood?—With the horse and cart, unless they get in the bullocks.
3559. Can they do so?—Yes, I give them permission to do it.
3560. Have they not to do that in their own time—they are not paid for that?—No.
3561. If they go carting wood, that means no wages?—Yes.
3562. Do you think if a man likes to be industrious and work hard through the week he can earn enough to pay for his butcher's meat?—Yes, I think it is possible he could.
3563. Do they have to find candles and kerosene and furniture out of their own money?—They have to find candles and kerosene, unless there is any one sick in the house.
3564. No furniture is given to them?—They get no furniture.
3565. No towels?—No towels.
3566. Do they get cooking utensils?—I think they have. Some of them got things sent up from town, but I could not say who or what.
3567. Are they allowed wash-hand basins?—I do not think they are allowed basins.
3568. Where do they wash?—At the tap, many of them.
3569. Do you think they are well looked after and well fed?—The orphans grumble to me about the rations, and want to know if I can give them a little. Supposing I have a child nearly two years old, I get nothing for him, and he consumes nearly as much tea and sugar as one that is four years old.

3570. You think the rations are not enough?—Not for those that have children nearly two years old. I see them nearly always out.
3571. Has each hut a camp oven for baking bread?—Some of them have.
3572. What do those do that have not?—I do not know.
3573. Is not there an oven in the place?—There is an oven, a new one ; it has been erected about three months.
3574. And the copper, I suppose, has been built about the same length of time—since the deputation waited upon Mr. Berry?—Yes, since then ; but the oven has never been used yet.
3575. Do you think the flour should be baked on the place?—I think so.
3576. Some of the people send their flour to Healesville to be baked?—Some do.
3577. And receive bread in return?—Yes.
3578. Is that oven large enough to bake for the whole station?—I forget what the men told me the oven would hold ; I think it was a hundredweight of flour baked into bread.
3579. Do you plant potatoes every season?—I have planted potatoes every season, but the last two seasons they have not come to anything, both seasons were so dry ; last season it was rather late, and they got the dry rot.
3580. What time were they planted?—Christmas.
3581. Was the seed fresh at the time?—The seed was good and fresh from Melbourne.
3582. How long was it cut before it was planted?—Cut as they planted it.
3583. Have you planted any this season?—Yes.
3584. Was the seed good?—Some good and some not. Bobby picked them out.
3585. How long were they cut before they were put in?—Kelly came down to plough one day and the potatoes were cut ready to put in, and he was going to continue on, but he could not.
3586. What sort of potatoes were they?—Warrnambool potatoes.
3587. Were they sound before they were cut?—Many of them were, but some were bruised in the bag.
3588. How long were they cut before they were planted?—As much as six days—perhaps seven.
3589. How many of those plants will come up do you think?—I think nearly all of them will come up that Kelly planted.
3590. Have the blacks to buy straw for their beds?—Yes, that was Captain Page's instruction to me two years ago. I asked him, when he was on the station, if the people could be allowed the hay or straw that was in the stack. He said no ; the men were getting paid for ploughing the land, and harrowing, and mowing, and carting, and if they wanted straw they must buy it.
3591. Does that account for their sleeping on rushes?—I could not say.
3592. Were you authorized to sell them the straw?—No, they must buy it elsewhere.
3593. What were you doing with the hay and straw on the station?—Cutting it into chaff.
3594. Have you a barn on the place?—No.
3595. Is there a bath on the place?—There is one in the schoolhouse for the children.
3596. Do you grow enough food for the horses on the station?—No, we have had to buy corn.
3597. You have been on the station all the time since it was first established here?—I have.
3598. Do you grow oats?—I cut it down for chaff two years ago. The oats were as good as the oats you buy, and I cut the straw into chaff.
3599. What horses require oats?—Mr. Strickland has one in the stable for about four months—the black horse that he rides.
3600. That is the horse Phinnimore grooms?—That is the one.
3601. How do you feed the plough horses?—With chaff and a little corn.
3602. You say you cut the oats you grow into chaff without thrashing?—Yes.
3603. Is that by instructions, or your own judgment?—My own judgment.
3604. Would they prevent your thrashing it?—No.
3605. You prefer cutting it up into chaff?—Yes.
3606. You do that when the crop is failing?—It was very coarse stuff.
3607. It would not pay to let it ripen?—It was all but ripe.
3608. Do you grow enough to keep the station going?—Not the last year.
3609. Do all the horses that are worked get oats?—All that I work get some.
3610. The horses that are working get properly fed?—Yes ; I give them what I think proper.
3611. You do not feed the horses that are not working?—No.
3612. How many, as a rule, have you working?—Three just now. There are five draught horses on the station ; one is for wood, generally.
3613. What amount of oats do you give them?—Each feed I give them about a quart of oats with the chaff.
3614. Do you feed four horses in the stable?—No ; I do not keep any of my horses in the stable at night.
3615. What horses are kept in the stable and fed?—Mr. Strickland's are stable fed.
3616. How many has he?—He has had two. He sold one to a gentleman in Melbourne, and it was returned to him. It was clipped, and could not be turned out, so it was kept in.
3617. Are you in fear of being dismissed for giving evidence before the Board?—I hardly know.
3618. For speaking the truth?—It is very probable I may be dismissed.
3619. You would rather not be dismissed?—I do not want to leave the place. I always had a great love for the blacks.
3620. You wrote a letter to Mrs. Bon, in which you said you hoped you would not hear any more about this again—you say, "Several have advised me to write"—whom did you mean by that?—Several on the way up came and asked me where I had been. I said I had been down to Melbourne.
3621. "Several have advised me to write that are interested in the blacks"—who are they?—Several on the coach, when I was coming up from Melbourne.
3622. Would you know them again?—I do not know either of them.
3623. Did they induce you to write?—No ; they said they thought it ought to be made known. I think one was a carpenter, that was going to work to Ringwood. We were talking in the coach all the way along.

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3624. In that letter you seem to lead us to believe that you were led to write that letter—you say, “Several have advised me”?—Those men on the coach said it ought to be made known.

3625. You were telling them you were reprimanded?—We were talking about different things.

3626. Did you tell us all that Mr. Curr said to you. You say here, “I went and got a reprimanding from Mr. Curr; told me that I had gone direct against the Board; that I had done wrong. Leaving the office, told Captain Page if there was anything to go up I would take it. I got my ticket and came to Richmond—to Kew. Captain Page came to the Junction hotel—O’Shaughnessy’s. ‘What the mischief brought you out here—came out like others to make more mischief, like others.’ I want this to be made known, what the Board has done with me on the quiet.” Have they threatened you with any punishment?—No.

3627. What do you mean by what the Board did with you on the quiet?—I was called down at an hour’s notice. I was frightened to go down; I did not know what was up.

3628. Are you keeping anything back that was said to you by Mr. Curr?—About Robert Wandon, they said he did not do his duty. I cannot remember anything else Mr. Curr said to me, except about keeping sheep—that we could not keep sheep on the station, it would require the fencing of the flat. I said sheep could not be kept all the whole year—it would require a good deal more fencing to keep sheep. That is all that Mr. Curr scolded me about. He stamped his foot at me, and said I had gone direct against the Board. I thought that I would get my dismissal next day.

3629. Did he say he thought you were on his side?—He said I was not on the Board’s side.

3630. Did he say he thought you were?—He said he thought I was not.

3631. Who are the members of the Central Board of Aborigines?—I could not tell the names of them.

Captain Page read out the following list of the members of the Board, viz.:—Messrs. Jennings, Sumner, Curr, Macredie, Hopkins, Shepherd, and Anderson.

3632. Could you not find one of the several that induced you to write on the station?—No, not one, nor in Healesville—they came as far as Lilydale, and no further.

3633. *By Captain Page.*—When you came to town did not you state that the report in the *Argus* was incorrect?—I was asked if I signed my statement—I said “No, I did not sign my name at the bottom after I was examined.” I said there were some things that were incorrect, such as keeping sheep.

3634. That is all you said?—I might have said more.

3635. That is the only part incorrect?—I cannot remember anything else.

3636. Did you not state you were unable to explain everything when Dr. Embling and Mrs. Bon were up there?—No.

3637. Did not Mr. Curr tell you that, as a servant of the Board, you should have insisted upon telling everything?—Yes. As regards meat, Mr. Curr or Captain Page said he thought I knew all the rules and regulations concerning meat, which I do not.

3638. I am asking you if Mr. Curr did not tell you you should have told everything to the Board?—I told everything I was asked. I answered every question I was asked.

3639. Did not Mr. Curr tell you that?—So I did.

3640. Did he ask you that?—Yes.

3641. *By the Board.*—You told him that you did?—I did.

3642. *By Captain Page.*—Had you any cause or reason to think you would be dismissed?—I thought so by the way Mr. Curr spoke—the manner in which he spoke to me—that I had gone against the Board—he spoke so harsh to me.

3643. *By the Board.*—Is the drainage imperfect in the hop ground?—It is at the bottom—the grass is growing up.

3644. You would not consider it imperfect all through?—No.

3645. If Mr. Lucas said it was imperfect, would he be telling the truth?—No.

3646. How often has he been in the hop ground with you?—Once.

3647. If he says three times, would that be true?—No; quite wrong. He was on the station about three months ago, looking for a horse, and I went up to the kiln with him. He never went to the hop garden. He has gone on once with me, but never since.

3648. *By Captain Page.*—Have you seen his hop poles?—No, not this last two years.

3649. Did not you tell me a month or two ago you had seen them?—I have seen them in the bush, not in the garden.

3650. Are they fit for poles?—No, not for hops. I would not put them for hops.

3651. Are they too big?—It will kill the hops.

3652. How?—If the pole is too large it will destroy the hill—it retards the growth; there is not the strength for the following year.

3653. What timber are they made of?—Stringybark, peppermint, or anything he can get.

3654. Were our poles taken over by you?—Yes, I took them over.

3655. Do you remember Mr. Shoebridge visiting the station with me?—Yes, I do.

3656. What was his opinion—did he say the hop ground was not properly worked?—No; he suggested some small improvements about the tools and scarifiers.

3657. Anything else in the drainage way?—Nothing to me about the drainage. The statement he made to me was that I had got to the top of the tree and could get no higher.

3658. Did you say it was unsatisfactory having the blacks to measure out the hops—that they were apt to do a little cheating?—When the hops came to be weighed it took more bushels to make a bale than when others did it.

3659. Was it not an improvement getting it done by the blacks?—I think a white man should have the superintendence, as other superintendents have done before.

3660. Have you ever refused to find a man work when he has asked for it?—No.

3661. Do you consider that they are clothed as well as the people about here?—They are clothed as well as any people about here, but I could not say whether it is served out upon the station, or whether it is bought. I never see the clothes served out.

3662. The rations consist of 10 lbs. of flour, 2 lbs. of sugar, and a quarter of a pound of tea—is that sufficient?—Yes, it does for me.

3663. You serve out the rations to the aborigines?—Yes.

3664. The same quantity?—The same.

3665. *By the Board.*—You get the same as the aborigines?—I was allowed by Mr. Strickland some time ago a little more sugar. Sometimes the hawker comes to stop with me, and, unless I get a little over, that makes me run short.

3666. Can you supply the others?—Not always.

3667. *By Captain Page.*—Does the butcher bring any weights with him to weigh the meat?—Not in the earlier days.

3668. At the present time?—I could not say.

3669. You knew the other day?—He weighs the house meat, and the people that buy weigh it themselves; but I do not think the meat that people outside get from the Government is weighed.

3670. Could the butcher cheat them with the meat?—When Harper was staying with me two years ago, he used to weigh his meat, and he would get a pound and a pound and a half short weight.

3671. Do they ever bring their own scales?—I have seen them weighing their own meat at the cart; they use Wandon's scales.

3672. Do they weigh their own rations?—They have done it.

3673. Did Wandon pass his time off the station when he was stock-riding?—Yes, he was off the station occasionally.

3674. A good deal of his time—would you say that?—I could not say a good deal, but he was away. He used to go away for the mail; he used to go very early, and not be back very early.

3675. Was he worth paying 10s. a week for what he did?—Yes; he used to put a good many cattle out; he used to go out Mount Riddell way.

3676. Did you not complain to me, time after time, about his not doing anything, and the fences being down and gates open?—I cannot remember about the gates; he used to complain about the fences, and we used to go and help him.

3677. Are not the fences chopped down?—They have been pulled down to let cattle in, not chopped down.

3678. If that piece of fencing near the township was done, would that be respected more than the other part of the fencing?—There is a roadway through that. There would be more people going by than over there, but it wants two wires besides the post and rails. You may impound cattle to-day, and to-morrow you may go and find them at the station again, wherever there is good grass.

3679. Did you state to me that the people of Coranderk and Healesville habitually cut down the Coranderk fences?—I told you that was cut down over at the road, no more.

3680. Have you a selection alongside the river?—I have.

3681. If I had been along the fence there, would you consider I had been on the run?—Yes.

3682. You do not always travel about with me on the station when I am there?—No, I never think it my place. It is Mr. Strickland's place. I have charge of the men.

3683. Do you think you could make the place self-supporting with the people you have on at the present time?—I do not think so, unless there was a man to assist me.

3684. If you had two men?—Yes, I think the place could be made self-supporting then.

3685. What would it cost to keep it up?—I could not say.

3686. Do you know what you get off it?—No.

3687. You have arrived at that opinion by thinking over it?—I think if it was fenced in it could be made self-supporting.

3688. Did you tell me you thought you could make £1,000 a year out of it with a great deal of trouble?—Yes; there was that made out of it in the early days. Mr. Kerr brought his steam-engine and thrashed a great quantity of oats one year. I think it was 900 bushels.

3689. *By the Board.*—Did you ever sell butter?—In the early days.

3690. And oats?—And oats.

3691. And cheese?—There was cheese made there.

3692. You sold potatoes at one time?—Yes.

3693. You had no hops then?—No, they were just put in—the first hops were just put in.

3694. You think it wants two working men to carry the place on?—Yes; there was Mr. Burgess in the hop garden, and when I was not in the hop garden I was at other work. It is impossible to do it if there are not two.

3695. *By Captain Page.*—You were speaking about straw for the beds—was it not at your recommendation that they got that grass?—No; I asked you if I should let them have straw.

3696. Why were no oats put in last year?—Johnny Charles was away at the Wimmera.

3697. What was the excuse you gave me that they were not put in after the oats were sent up?—I could not say now.

3698. You spoke about not receiving instructions—what instructions would you require when you are in charge of the hop ground?—In the early days, under Mr. Brough Smyth and the other managers, I had two giving instructions what I was to do outside, and what I was to do in the hop garden. In the hop garden I was to consider myself wholly under Mr. Burgess.

3699. What instructions do you want?—To know what I was to do as regards fencing or farm work.

3700. It is your place to report if there is anything particular or out of the common—are the men working as well as they used to do?—Yes.

3701. What do you call working well—how many hours a week?—Seven hours a day some work.

3702. What do you call good work for them for a week?—I do not know how many hours a day they work—it is in the time-book. They have worked very well since they got their money.

3703. Do you call three whole days in the week good?—They might be away one day cutting wood and another day to cart, and they do not work on Saturdays.

3704. They can work on Saturdays if they like?—They can; but they do not. They take Saturdays for hunting, to save their butcher's bill.

3705. Are you aware how much a man gets if he chooses to work for meat?—I have heard, but I do not remember.

3706. *By the Board.*—Do you keep their time?—I do.

3707. If they get 3½d. an hour, and they work 36 hours a week, do you know how much it would come to?—Close up to 10s., I think.

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3708. *By Captain Page.*—Would you be surprised to hear that a man, who had a wife and two children, gets 1s. 4d. a day for meat alone?—I do not know about it. I never trouble about the meat at all.

3709. *By the Board.*—Supposing they earn 9s. a week, have they all that to spend on meat, or have they anything to buy, such as furniture and bedsteads?—A good many of them have to buy clothes. There is a hawker now at Lillydale, a Mr. Wilson; they buy their Sunday clothes from him. The butcher has to lay by for a time for his money.

3710. The 9s. has to be divided into two or three expensive things?—Yes.

3711. *By Captain Page.*—Is Mr. Lucas an authority on hops?—I do not think so. He came over the hop garden the first time he came up, and you told me you knew him, and advised me to keep away from him, which I have done.

The witness withdrew.

William Lalor sworn and examined.

William Lalor,
18th Nov. 1881.

3712. Do you cart the stuff for Coranderrk?—Yes.

3713. Have you the contract for that?—Yes.

3714. Did you tender for it?—Yes.

3715. That is every year?—Yes.

3716. They tender it for twelve months?—Yes.

3717. What do you get?—£2 6s. a ton.

3718. Do you get at that rate if you have a hundredweight?—Only that rate if I have fifty pounds weight to carry.

3719. When was the last tender called for?—It was all the one contract. I tendered for the last twelve months, and it was never changed. I was asked if I would carry it at the same price, and I said yes.

3720. How long have you been at it?—About three years.

3721. You consider that a reasonable price?—Yes. I consider it reasonable, especially when I have full loading; but I often have to come with two hundredweight and less, and then it is not very payable.

3722. Do you often come up with loading to Coranderrk?—Generally about once a fortnight—sometimes oftener.

3723. Do the blacks complain to you of getting bad treatment?—Never.

3724. You think they are well looked after?—They appear to be. They never made a complaint to me.

3725. After the first year there were no tenders called?—No.

3726. *By Captain Page.*—In what way would you think the aborigines are clothed from their appearance?—I see them all pretty well covered.

3727. They seem as well clothed as the selectors about your part?—Much better than a great many selectors that I have seen.

3728. Do they come down your way at all?—Yes, sometimes.

3729. What are they doing there?—Fishing sometimes. I often see them this time of the year. They fish, and sell their fish—and shooting.

3730. They do not look like slaves?—I never saw any slavery about them. I often went to the station with loading, and had to carry it in myself.

3731. They are not paid for that, are they?—I do not know.

3732. Are they paid for that work?—No; but that is not my work.

3733. Would they not give you a hand?—Sometimes they would, but more times they would not. If I had a load of small packages of sugar they would; but if I had flour they would not.

3734. *By the Board.*—They would not object because they were half-starved?—No; they would flock round the dray when they saw it come, and when they saw the loading they would clear out. Mr. Harris helps me.

The witness withdrew.

Robert Wandon (aboriginal) sworn and examined.

Robert Wandon,
18th Nov. 1881.

3735. You desired to explain with reference to your dismissal as stock-rider on the station. It is with reference to that you are asked to give evidence to-day. You need not be afraid of any consequences, make any statement you wish?—I was dismissed.

3736. Can you give us the reason?—I believe it was because I would not give Mr. Strickland a ten shillings that he had belonging to me.

3737. How did he get the ten shillings of yours?—Johnny Rourke had some cattle, I heard there was a reward out for them. I was stock-riding and I found this cow. I brought her down and put her into the paddock. He sent a man up and took the cow away, but did not send the money. Mr. Strickland was at the court, and Mr. Rourke gave him the ten shillings to give to me. He said he would. He kept the ten shillings and showed it to Captain Page, and he said it belonged to the station.

3738. Did you hear him say that?—Mr. Strickland said he said that. Alick Campbell was going down to Lillydale. I asked him to call for the ten shillings. When he came home I asked him did he get it. He said no, Mr. Strickland had got it. I went and asked him had he got the ten shillings. He said yes. I said, "It is mine." He said, "It belongs to the station." "Who told you?" "Captain Page." I said, "If you do not give it to me I will take you into the Healesville court." I wrote to Rourke, and he said to fetch him into court and he would appear. I went to Mr. Strickland after I got the letter. He said, "I have never been to the court; I will go and get change and give you the change," which he did.

3739. You think it was because you insisted on getting the ten shillings he dismissed you?—Before I found this cow I told Mr. Strickland stock-riding did not agree with me. He said, "I could not do without you." A fortnight after I got this ten shillings he came to my place with a Government letter in his hand, and said, "The Board has come to the conclusion they can do without a stock-rider, and your services are no longer required." I said, "All right, Mr. Strickland." That is all.

3740. What length of time was there between Mr. Strickland getting the ten shillings and paying it over to you?—About three weeks, I think, because the other court was on not long after.

3741. Did they accuse you of neglect—did they tell you you were not attending to your duties properly?—No, never. Robert Wandon,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3742. Did any one ever complain that you used to leave the station and ride about, stopping at Mallory's?—No, never.

3743. If they said you were neglecting your duties, would that be an untruth?—Yes.

3744. You have not been in the habit of neglecting your duty?—No.

3745. Neither Captain Page nor Mr. Strickland complained to you you were neglecting your duty?—No.

3746. Until they dismissed you?—Until they dismissed me.

3747. Did not Thomas Harris complain to you about it?—No. I never stopped at Mallory's except when it was a wet morning, and I had a letter, and I stood till the coach came, and as soon as I delivered the letter I rode home again.

3748. You say, "From information received about the cow"—who gave you that information?—Thomas Harris.

3749. You applied to be relieved from the duties of stock-rider, and he refused to do so?—Yes.

3750. And three weeks after you got your dismissal?—Yes.

3751. How much were you paid as stock-rider?—Ten shillings a week, and rations found.

3752. What horses did you ride?—Government horses. I rode my own horse, and had to pay 7s. 6d. to get him shod.

3753. What had you to do with strange cattle?—Turn them outside. I told Captain Page, and he said, "Put them in the yard, and leave them there till the owners come."

3754. Do you think you were entitled to that ten shillings when you were paid for turning strange cattle out of the run?—I think I was entitled to the reward if I found the cow that was out for which the reward was offered.

3755. You are married?—Yes.

3756. What children have you got?—Two, and one dead.

3757. Do you get milk when you require it for those children?—About the time that Captain Page says we got cows I wanted to wean my child, but he stopped Punch. Punch came up to me; I said, "I am going to ask Mr. Strickland for a cow." He said, "It is no use you going; he ordered me out of the yard." I said, "I will buy a cow." I bought one for £5, and the cow got into a swamp and got drowned when she was dry.

3758. How long had you her when she was milking?—Seven or eight months, I think. The boys are not checked for ill-using the cows. They will not milk long. They run them about, and ill-treat them.

3759. Is any one in charge of the milking?—Only the boys, who milk for Mr. Strickland.

3760. They do as they like?—They do as they like.

3761. Do they milk your cows?—No, we milk our own cows.

3762. They used to bring them to the yard?—Yes, with the rest.

3763. Did you never ask for a cow for your own use from the station?—I asked about two months ago, and I got a cow since you were up.

3764. You are milking her now?—Yes.

3765. Did you ever ask for one before?—No.

3766. That is the first time?—Yes.

3767. Are you aware of any one else asking, and being refused the use of a cow?—No; I am not aware of any one. I know Alick had one of the best cows on the station. I could not say whether he asked for her or not.

3768. He had the use of her?—He had her only one morning. I could not say whether they took her from him or not. The cow was taken from him. The cow is now stone blind. Bill Thomas had her, and ill-used her.

3769. Are there any others on the station that purchased their own cows?—Tommy Dunolly had one. Mr. Kelly made him a present of one. He made my boy a present of one too.

3770. Do you find it a difficult thing to earn money enough to buy meat?—Yes.

3771. How can you buy a cow for £5?—I asked Mr. Mallory to give me time to pay him up in. He gave me six months.

3772. Did you manage to pay for her in six months?—I never asked him whether I was clear or not. I paid him; but I am not sure whether I am clear or not yet.

3773. Does the Government provide you with anything besides the rations?—There is flour, tea and sugar, a pannican of rice, a pannican of oatmeal, a pannican of sago, and a packet of maizena a month.

3774. Any utensils—any furniture for the house?—No.

3775. You have to pay for them yourself?—Yes, or make them ourselves.

3776. Any washing utensils?—No; only pots and pans for cooking.

3777. Do you get any towels?—No, we buy them ourselves.

3778. Have you got any since you have been there?—No.

3779. Did you ever ask for one?—No; there would be no use asking.

3780. If the manager says you get two suits of clothes a year, is it correct?—I say it is false.

3781. How many do you get?—One pair of trousers, two shirts—cotton shirts—those are the shirts we get now.

3782. Do you get the blue shirts?—Yes; one of the worst things going to breed sickness. When you get wet, instead of the steam going out it goes in.

3783. Did you get those things you have from the Government?—No, I bought these.

3784. Any flannel?—No; they do not send up any flannels for the men—only for the women.

3785. If Mrs. Strickland says that the amount of flannel served to the women would be enough flannel to make shirts for the married men, does she tell a lie? Does your wife get flannel for petticoats?—Yes.

3786. Does she get enough to make shirts for you?—No.

3787. If Mrs. Strickland says that the amount of flannel served to the women would be enough to make shirts for the married men is she telling a lie?—Yes; because I asked her for flannel, and she said "There is none."

Robert Wandon,
continued.
18th Nov. 1881.

3788. Do you know how many yards of flannel your wife requires for a petticoat?—I cannot say.
3789. Does she get enough to fit her?—Yes, just enough.
3790. How many petticoats does she make?—Two every year.
3791. Do they get it at one time?—Once a year.
3792. Do they get extra when there are babies?—I never asked.
3793. Have you your horse still?—No, I sold him.
3794. Have you been out on the run lately?—Only last mustering; that was in February.
3795. Did you see most of the cows then?—We mustered a good many.
3796. Did you see any with two calves—a yearling and a half?—Yes; often a twelve month old calf and a young one.
3797. Have you known cows to die from two calves sucking her?—I have seen calves sucking till they could not walk.
3798. How many cows are there on the station with two calves?—I do not know; but on the run every one of the last year's calves are sucking yet—not weaned. There was a calf over twelve months old running away up on the Don. The mother was never brought in till the calf was a good size. It was brought in and then turned out. Alfred brought her in and branded her last Monday morning, and there are two or three others not branded yet.
3799. Is that lately?—Yes.
3800. The calves are never weaned?—No.
3801. What is done with the stores?—Running out everywhere all over the run, right away back over the Don. The year before last we went to the Don and caught some amongst the wild ones. We put them into Ryan's paddock.
3802. Were you not stockkeeper then?—I have not been stockkeeper for nearly two years, I think.
3803. Who went with you?—Tommy Dunolly.
3804. Mr. Strickland?—No; he came riding about the place. Last year he was up there, when Harris could not come.
3805. Have you mustered this year?—In February.
3806. Were all the young cattle branded that were not branded before?—We branded all that we had in at the mustering. There are some running yet that are not branded.
3807. Did the old calves run with their mothers when you were stockriding?—No; because we used to put nose jewels on them when we turned them out.
3808. Have you ever reported to the manager, or Mr. Harris, or Captain Page that those calves were sucking the cow two at a time?—No.
3809. Do you think it was wrong to allow them to go about like that—you did not report it?—No, I did not report it.
3810. Why?—I thought they would not take any notice of me. Like everything else when you tell them—no money to do this or that.
3811. Do you think it was your duty to report it?—I do not know. I never thought of it.
3812. Do you think the manager has any power over you in any way whatever?—He has got no control over us.
3813. Do you work for Harris when he asks you to work?—Yes, always.
3814. Do you take a spell during the day when you like, without his leave?—Yes, at smoking time.
3815. If you felt tired would you take a half an hour spell without his leave. Is it the custom to give off work at 10 o'clock and 3 o'clock to have a smoke?—Yes.
3816. If the superintendent ordered you to do anything, would it be your duty to obey him?—Yes; if nobody has been there before me and run away from it.
3817. You would not consider it your duty to do the work another man has thrown up?—No.
3818. If you were ordered to work in the garden would you say "No, I will not, because the other fellow will not," would you say that?—No, I would not do it. If the Superintendent has any control over the men he ought to make the first man do it.
3819. Did you work for Mr. Harris?—Yes, he was a very good man. After I got my dismissal, Mr. Strickland sent Harris over to tell me to drive him over to Healesville, so I said "All right," I went and got the horses and drove him to Healesville and left the horses standing in front of Mr. Morrison's and went over to get something to eat and went back again, and Mr. Strickland said, "Are you cold?" I said, "No, only my feet." He said, "Will you have anything to drink, I have something hot here?" I said, "No, thank you, Mr. Strickland." That was just before we arrived at the township.
3820. You do not know what it was?—No. I wish I had said "Yes," I would have found it out.
3821. What do you think it was?—He said, "Something hot."
3822. Do you like drinking brandy or whiskey?—I am not in the habit of drinking, I can take a glass.
3823. You do not get drunk?—No, I got drunk once and got a lesson from it, I was brought up by Mr. Green not to drink, and I took his word for it.
3824. Do you think it is right for the Superintendent to drink?—No; it shows a bad example to the men.
3825. You would respect him more if he was a teetotaller?—Yes. The men see him drinking and say, "Mr. Strickland is there drinking, I might as well drink too."
3826. *By Captain Page.*—Did you ever see Mr. Strickland drink anything?—Yes, I saw him drink a glass of ale at Fisher's Creek for his dinner.
3827. *By the Board.*—It would not be right for you to drink a glass of ale?—No. He asked me to have a glass; I said "No." He said, "I will not act the hypocrite," and he took it before me.
3828. How long ago is that?—I do not know.
3829. This year?—Yes. About six months ago.
3830. By the time you get paid you forget what you are entitled to?—Yes; and we cannot pay the butcher. He makes us pay right up to date.
3831. *By Captain Page.*—If the butcher says you do not pay up the accounts, would that be the case?—They have to take what we give them and be satisfied. If you pay us for three months and there is a bill against us for four months, we have to pay it. You do not know half what goes on in your

absence. We do not know what Mr. Strickland is writing down to you. You only just come up there about half-past four or five o'clock and go round and are off the next morning. You have no time to see what is going on.

Robert Wandon,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3832. *By the Board.*—If he was there always, and seeing what was going on, there would be no need for anyone else under him?—No.

3833. *By Captain Page.*—You said Mr. Halliday was a good man. You were pleased with Mr. Halliday?—Yes.

3834. *By the Board.*—You do not want to have Captain Page any longer inspector?—No.

3835. Nor Mr. Strickland as Superintendent?—No.

3836. Are you satisfied with Mr. Harris?—Mr. Harris and Mr. Green, and our station to be under the Chief Secretary—no Board at all.

3837. Can you manage without anybody—without Mr. Harris—without Mr. Green?—We do not want a Board at all. We can do without a Board—with Mr. Harris and Mr. Green, and under the Chief Secretary.

3838. You think you want a head of some sort?—Yes.

3839. What do you want Mr. Green and Mr. Harris for? You are able to take care of yourselves without anybody over you?—We want a head man over us—the station to be under the Chief Secretary, and Mr. Green to be manager.

3840. Is there no man but Mr. Green?—No; if you were to go all over the country you would not find a better man than Mr. Green.

3841. Could you do without anyone as long as you were under the Chief Secretary, and leave the management to Mr. Harris and the blacks?—No.

3842. If you could not get Mr. Green, could you do without anybody?—We must have some man over us.

3843. You think Mr. Green is the proper person?—Yes. He has taken the trouble to gather them from all parts of the country.

3844. You all wish him back again?—Yes.

3845. How do you like him so much?—He took me when I was a baby, and looked after me as if I was one of his own sons; and Mrs. Green was very good too.

3846. You did not always have Mr. Green here—Mrs. Green was?—When he was away on his trips Mrs. Green was here and Harris.

3847. Where were you born?—At Steele's Flat.

3848. The Yarra tribe?—Yes.

3849. Why did you allow Mr. Green to take them from all parts of the country?—He never took them against their will. If they like to come down he fetches them down. He does not take them against their will.

3850. If it is wrong to take you away from the Yarra, it would be wrong to take a man away from the Goulburn, or the Murray, and bring him here?—I think it is wrong against his own will. I am alluding to the breaking up of the station.

3851. You remember when we were at Coranderrk last time?—Yes.

3852. You and several others said that the station was not self-supporting, because it was not fenced in, and the run was over-run with strangers—do you remember that?—Yes.

3853. Are there any of Mr. Green's cattle there now?—No.

3854. Are you sure?—Mr. Green had to clear his cattle away.

3855. How long is it since Mr. Green had any cattle on the run?—I do not know, because I have never been out.

3856. At the last muster were any cattle of Mr. Green's on the run?—Yes; because we went right back.

The witness withdrew.

John Blair Elms, M.B., M.Ch., sworn and examined.

3857. You attend Coranderrk in your capacity as medical man?—Whenever I am summoned.

3858. Is it under contract?—No, I am paid for each visit.

3859. Do you visit it often?—Hardly a month passes that I am not there—sometimes twice a month.

3860. At any rate you have been visiting on an average once a month?—Yes.

3861. How is the health of the natives during the last year or two?—There have been some very bad cases among them. They suffer very much from pulmonary disease.

3862. How long is it since you began to visit?—The first attendance was in June 1872. Mr. Green sent for me.

3863. Is their health any worse now than it was then?—I do not think so. In fact, perhaps, a little better. During Mr. Green's managership there was a great deal of pulmonary sickness.

3864. To what do you attribute their disease as a rule?—It is natural to the race.

3865. To the race or the climate?—I do not think the place has so much to do with it. It is the habits of the people and their constitution.

3866. Are they as healthy now as when they were roaming about?—I know very little about them when they were roaming about. I have had no experience of them then.

3867. Have there been any serious cases lately—within the last few months?—Yes, one or two. There was a very bad case—a man spitting blood, with hydatids of the lungs; and a woman who was injured in her confinement.

3868. Has that man been cured?—He seemed better the last I saw of him.

Mr. Strickland.—That man is dead now.

3869. *By the Board (to Mr. Strickland).*—And where was he buried?—On the station.

3870. Who gave the certificate?—Nobody.

The witness.—There has never been a certificate of death on the station since I have been here.

3871. Did you see the woman who was injured?—Yes, I saw her the last time I was there.

John Blair Elms,
M.B., M.Ch.,
18th Nov. 1881.

John Blair Elms,
M.B., M.Ch.,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3872. How is she?—As well as can be expected. I wrote to Dr. Balls-Headley, and he said as soon as she was ready to go to the Lying-in Hospital it would be better to send her.

3873. Would it not be better to send her at once?—Dr. Headley said in two or three months.

3874. From when would the two or three months date?—About a month ago.

3875. It would not be right to send her down for another month or so yet?—No.

3876. Have you attended children?—Yes.

3877. Lately?—At different times.

3878. Was there any scarlet fever?—There were two cases in one family. They had all the symptoms of scarlet fever.

3879. How long ago?—Within the course of this year sometime.

3880. Was it the same time that scarlet fever was in Lillydale?—Yes. It was very prevalent at the time. I had several cases.

3881. You were satisfied in your own mind that it was scarlet fever?—It was Mrs. Strickland that wrote to me to come up, and I told her to keep the children isolated. It was the safest plan, whether it was scarlet fever or not.

3882. Of course, you saw there was fever, and you could not say what it might turn out?—No; there was an eruption, and they had a red throat, and had every symptom of mild scarlet fever.

3883. It was possible it might have assumed some other form than scarlet fever?—It may have been, but I think it was.

3884. Did you hear the result of the case?—I directed Mrs. Strickland, in case the children got worse, to let me know. I never heard anything more until I went up there afterwards. I asked, "How are those children?" she said, "They are all right."

3885. Do you know what the natives call "bubberum"?—No, I have never seen it; I cannot call it to mind. I sometimes see fifteen or sixteen, when I go to the station, with trifling complaints.

3886. As you are there once a month, I presume you have observed their condition generally—are the children well nourished?—I think so; they look very well indeed; they seemed to be well nourished and well clothed; and the blacks seemed to be well clothed and comfortable.

3887. Are they as well taken care of as the poor classes in the district?—A great deal better than some of them.

3888. Who supplies them with the medicines?—I got a supply of medicine sent up by Captain Page, which is in the place. I always send them things from my own surgery, if necessary. They often come to my place, and I give them medicine.

3889. Do you give them instructions?—Always. It is not only written on the bottle, but I give them a note to Mr. Strickland.

3890. Do you think they are properly attended to?—I think they get instructions, but they do not always take it, because I have seen bottles three parts full when I have gone up there a month afterwards.

3891. Do you think it would be well to have a small hospital there?—When I asked Captain Page for those medicines, I asked if it would not be well to have a small hospital with eight beds. He said he did not think it would be possible to carry it out.

3892. Do you think the site so near that swamp is a conducement to those chest diseases?—I dare say it has some effect upon them, but they have always been roaming about the district before the place was established. It would be injurious to blacks, those brought from warmer climates undoubtedly.

3893. Do you think that disease does not arise from the fact of their coming in contact with the vices of civilization?—No, I do not think so.

3894. Do you think it is a good thing for the aboriginal station to be near a large white population?—I think it would be better further off.

3895. If the blacks object to go?—I would let them stay; they have a right to demand that they should stay and take the consequences.

3896. Do you think anything will arrest the rapid disappearance of the tribe?—I think not.

3897. Good food and good clothing and comfortable houses will help them?—Yes; all that ought to be done has been done, so far as I am aware.

3898. They said they thought the fatal mistake was compelling them to live in houses and wear clothes?—The older ones might say so, but I do not think the other ones would say so, because they are rather anxious to wear clothes. The half-castes like houses.

3899. You first attended the station in 1872?—In 1873 or 1874 I began to go regularly. Dr. Gibson was the regular doctor; I used to go occasionally. His services were dispensed with; I was paid a salary for a time, and then the Board dismissed me, and a doctor named Grey was employed. He left, and I returned to my first position.

3900. Do you think there is any deterioration in the blacks in their appearance, their dress, and their looks?—I do not think so; in fact, their houses are a great deal better. They have had a great many new houses put up. I think they look as well as ever they did.

3901. In cases where they are confined to bed, are the beds comfortable and blankets enough?—Yes, they have blankets; the beds are not such as people in different classes of society have. They seem very comfortable.

3902. Did you consider it your duty to ask for more clothing to keep them warm?—I have recommended certain things I cannot call to mind now.

3903. Have you any objection to tell us the fee?—I get four guineas for each visit, and when they come to my house I get half a guinea.

3904. Do you supply medicine for that?—I do at my own place, but there is medicine at the station.

3905. Is it not better for the aborigines to have blankets and sleep in blankets than a sheet, that would be most of the time damp and dirty?—Yes, they seem to like blankets best. Of the real aborigines that is true; but of the half-castes, I cannot see why they should not get sheets and pillow-cases.

3906. Do you think it would be a good thing to encourage the half-castes being hired out?—Certainly I think so.

3907. Both male and female?—Both male and female. I do not see how they can be in any greater danger than the children of white people.

3908. You do not think they would be imposed upon?—Nothing of the kind—they are very sharp. John Blair Elms,
 3909. Do not you think it would be better to draft them off when they are very young?—I should M.B., M.Ch.,
 begin very young. First teach them well, and send them out as soon as they can leave school. Why not continued,
 send them under the same conditions as the children of the Industrial Schools, who are under supervision? 18th Nov. 1881.

The witness withdrew.

Rev. Alexander Mackie examined.

[*The witness objected to being sworn, and was permitted by the Board to make a declaration.*] Rev. A. Mackie,
 18th Nov. 1881.

3910. You know Coranderk?—Yes, I know something about it.

3911. How long is it since you first visited Coranderk?—About ten years ago, I suppose. Mr. Green was there then.

3912. Have you been in the habit of visiting it ever since?—Not ever since. During Mr. Halliday's management I visited it once a month, conducting service there.

3913. Since he left you have not been visiting it regularly?—No, not since Mr. Strickland had the management.

3914. Have you been there at all during Mr. Strickland's superintendence?—Yes, I have been there. On the first occasion he informed me that the Board had sent him to take charge of the station. He was to do the work I had done previously.

3915. Previously to that you were in the habit of marrying the blacks?—Yes.

3916. Have you married any since he took possession of the station?—Yes, one couple.

3917. How long ago?—About three months ago. I am not absolutely certain. Mr. Strickland sent a letter asking me to do it. The arrangement about the blacks first was, I was requested to marry them by Mr. Ogilvie. He said the Board would pay me a fee for coming to the station to marry them. The fee I charged was half the usual fee—two pounds. That arrangement was carried out until sometime during Mr. Halliday's management. The last couple I came to marry at the station the claim went in for the money, and the Board declined to pay it. About a month or six weeks after they passed a resolution that they would not pay any longer.* That fee has never been paid yet. I have applied for it. I do not think it worth while to sue the Board for the amount. I thought I was dealing with straightforward people. Since then I do not visit the station to marry them. I undertook to marry them if they came to my house, and I would take whatever they would give me.

3918. Since then one couple has come?—One couple.

3919. You married them at your own house?—I did.

3920. Did any of them make any application to you with reference to marrying any more?—Yes; there was an application made recently by Harris, the overseer.

3921. He is not a black?—He wished to be married to one of the blacks.

3922. Did you marry them?—No.

3923. Why not?—I found that the girl was under age. I told him if he got a magisterial consent I would marry him.

3924. She is under twenty-one?—So I was informed by him.

3925. They have not showed you the consent of a magistrate?—No.

3926. You do not know whether they got it or not?—No; he had not got it a month since. I gave him a form to get a consent if he wished.

3927. Did you see the girl?—Not on that subject. I know the girl.

3928. Do you think she is old enough to get married?—That is a matter of opinion.

3929. What is your opinion?—I think she is old enough to get married.

3930. Is it advisable to allow them to get married to whites?—Not for the whites.

3931. For the blacks—you think it is for the interest of the blacks?—No, I think not. If she had been nearly white I would have had a different opinion.

3932. You think it would not be against their interest if half-caste girls got married to white men?—I think not.

3933. Can you explain the difference why it would not be equally right for the full black girl?—If you marry a half-caste to a white the succeeding race will approach nearer to the whites. If you marry a full black to a white you increase the number of aboriginals. A very good example occurred on the station recently of a girl who was nearly white married to a full black. I think that girl would have been much better away from the station, and married to a European.

3934. Was it reported that he had a wife living at another station?—I have heard so, but I do not know anything about it as a fact. I offered to take that girl from the station about ten years ago, and teach her domestic service.

3935. Would not she go?—The Board would not allow it.

3936. You applied to the Board?—To the manager.

3937. Who was that?—I think it was Mr. Green.

3938. You applied to take her as a servant ten years ago?—It must be nearly that.

3939. She was young then?—She was quite young. I may say that I was told by the manager, Mr. Green, that the Board did not allow it, and that, if I induced her to go away, I would be prosecuted, so I took no steps in the matter.

3940. You have not asked for one since?—No.

3941. Would it be advisable to encourage them to go out to service?—I think so, if they are taken out quite young into proper families.

3942. What do you mean by "quite young"?—Under twelve.

3943. You would deprive them of schooling?—No; let them go out the same as children from the orphanage—the Board pay so much to any one who would take them.

3944. Would they not learn enough up to twelve to pass them through life as domestic servants?—No, I do not think so.

* The fee has been paid since this evidence was given.—ALEX. MACKIE.

Rev. A. Mackie,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881.

3945. Would you be in favour of encouraging the blacks, as a rule, and half-castes to go out to service and earn their own living?—No, I think not.

3946. Can you give us your reason for thinking so?—I have not had much experience; it is a matter of opinion.

3947. Would they not be capable of working on farms or stations?—I do not think they would do so systematically; they might do it occasionally.

3948. It would depend upon the employer?—It would nearly all depend upon that.

3949. With a good employer it would not be a bad thing to let them go to service?—Some of them.

3950. There are four girls there of twenty years or so. They are very anxious to go out—would you object to their going out?—I do not think it would be advisable. They lack the proper training for domestic servants.

3951. Supposing they went to a lady who was willing to teach them—give them a small remuneration—that is, the half-castes?—Of course it would depend very much upon the individuals themselves. If any one particularly wished to go and was likely to be of use she should go, but not to send them out indiscriminately.

3952. Do not you think that if you drafted off all the young girls the men would not stay there?—I think you would not draft them off in that way. You would not get many that were suitable to go out.

3953. When were you at Coranderrk last?—About a fortnight ago, I think.

3954. What was the general appearance of the place compared with it when you used to visit it more regularly?—It is very much improved about the settlement—the houses and so on. The general appearance is much superior to what it was three years ago.

3955. The appearance of the blacks themselves; are they well nourished and well clad?—To look at them they seem very well nourished. They complain to me of not getting sufficient food, but the appearance belies it.

3956. You can tell whether they are starved or whether they get enough food?—I do not think they get enough; they complain to me they do not get enough beef.

3957. You do not think that interferes with their constitution?—If they do not get it it will.

3958. Do they require more fresh meat than a European?—I think not. I do not think they will require so much as a European. If they worked as well as a European they would.

3959. What would you give them as a substitute?—Butter and milk and vegetables.

3960. In the absence of those would they not consume more meat?—Yes, if they could get it. They sometimes come to me with complaints. They came to me on one occasion, when the station was threatened to be taken from them. I told them if they did not manage themselves better it probably would be. They asked me what they should do? I advised them to go to the Chief Secretary. It was reported that the station was probably to be sold. They asked what they should do. It was at the time that the country was in a state of excitement about embassies and so on. I advised them to go to Mr. Berry on an embassy to protest against the station being sold. A man was almost in tears. He said, "The white people have only left us a miserable spadeful of ground, and now they want to take that away from us." I said, "Is there anyone who wants to leave?" He said "No." I visited the station and I could not find one who wanted to leave.

3961. You say their general appearance would go to show they are not stinted?—No. To look at them I should not think they were stinted; but to listen to them, I should say they were.

3962. When they complain to you they do not get enough to eat, you naturally look at them?—Yes.

3963. Do you believe they are telling the truth?—I believe they do not get what they consider sufficient. I do not know the quantity. They may get sufficient, and not consider it sufficient. From their appearance I should say they got sufficient. I asked them what is it they did not get enough of, and they said "beef."

3964. You do not know whether they get enough of solid food to enable them to work like white people?—No, I do not know.

3965. Are they well clad—do they get enough clothing to keep them warm?—I do not think they make use of enough clothing to keep them warm—whether they get it or not is a different thing.

3966. Have they enough on?—I saw one not very long ago—he had not enough on, but perhaps he had lost some of his clothing.

3967. Was he under the influence of drink?—Yes; he had been lying in the gutter all night. He was lying in the track, with the water running under him. I raised him up and got him up to go away. He did not have enough on, but he might have lost a portion of it.

3968. In your visiting the station you see a dozen or two of them together. Do you think they wear enough clothing to keep them comfortable?—No, I do not think it.

3969. Are you in the habit of going into any of the dwellings when you visit the place?—Yes.

3970. Do you ever notice their beds or bedclothes?—No, I never noticed them particularly.

3971. You cannot say whether they get enough blankets to keep them warm?—From their habits of living I should say they did not, because they seem to pull up to a big fire at night, even if they are in bed.

3972. Might not that be a habit?—Yes, it is possible.

3973. Did you give evidence before the Board that was held a few years ago?—Yes.

3974. In that evidence you said you thought the site of the Coranderrk station was a bad one?—Yes.

3975. Do you think so?—Yes.

3976. You thought it was injurious for chest disease?—Yes, too swampy in winter.

3977. Do you think it would be more injurious to drive them out against their wishes?—Yes.

3978. Would it be injurious to move them into a warmer climate?—If they were willing to go it would be beneficial, but if they were unwilling to go they would droop and pine.

3979. If it would injure the blacks to remove them from Coranderrk—those that have been imported to Coranderrk—how would you manage to remove all the half-caste children from their fathers and mothers. Would that not be the greatest cruelty to them?—Certainly not. I see no cruelty in it—not when the parents are willing they should go. If the blacks did not wish to go I think it would be cruel to make them go. They have their feelings. I do not think it would be beneficial to drive them away. I may say they talk to me as if they had no voice in the matter. I met some of them in town some time ago, and the

men complained about the way they were sent from the station to town. There seemed to be some mis-arrangement in connection with it. A man came down with his son to get him into the hospital. I was in the coach travelling down from Lillydale. When he got to town he told me what his errand was. He had not had his dinner—he had no money; he did not know what to do. The coach arrived in town at four o'clock. He had been told to go to Captain Page; he left his office at four o'clock, he would not see him until the next day at ten o'clock. I went to the hospital and got his boy admitted. He did not know what to do. He had not had his dinner. I provided for his bed, his supper, and his breakfast. I thought it was not right the man should be sent down in that way.

3980. Are you aware that he was sent down?—From his own statement.

3981. You saw the boy?—Yes.

3982. Was it necessary that the boy should go to the hospital?—I did not examine the boy; they examined him at the hospital and admitted him.

3983. Do they cure them in the hospital or relieve them?—Certain cases.

3984. Have you known many cases lately?—No, I have not, where they have been cured. For surgical cases the hospital is good.

3985. You do not see many surgical cases at Coranderrk?—No, not many.

3986. Do not you think it would be better if there was medical attendance and a kind of hospital at Coranderrk rather than sending them down to the hospital?—I think so.

3987. Have you been visiting any of them in any of the hospitals in town when sick there?—Yes.

3988. Did you find them content?—Yes.

3989. All the evidence we have had previously went to show none of them were content in the hospital?—I never heard any expression of discontent in the hospital. I have heard them object to go to the hospital.

3990. Were they not home sick?—They would like to get home.

3991. Was it not more cruel to keep them there, against their will, to linger there? would it not be better to leave them at Coranderrk, even without medical aid, than to take them there to die there?—(No answer.)

3992. At seven o'clock at night did you not find Morgan leaning against a lamp post without money?—Yes. After I got the boy in the hospital I told him to go back and see if he could not find Captain Page. Later in the evening I saw him leaning against a post. He had not seen Captain Page, and had not got his dinner, so I took pity on him.

3993. Do you know how he got home?—I do not know of my own knowledge.

3994. Is that the only patient you ever took to the hospital?—I took some others on one occasion, long before that. I think during Mr. Halliday's management.

3995. Did you take a woman to the Lying-in Hospital?—Yes, that is the case I refer to. I think it was Mrs. Bamfield. I happened to meet her and her husband about nine o'clock at night. They were standing in the street. They did not know what to do. They had been sent to town. There was someone met them at six o'clock. I think they were hanging about there at that time. The woman was in a very critical state. I took them to a lodging-house; there I got them a cup of coffee. The proprietor would not allow her to be left there all night, so I took them to the Lying-in Hospital, and got the woman admitted.

3996. Was she confined there?—No; I heard she was not.

3997. Did you hear where she was confined?—I heard she was confined at Kew, at Mrs. Bon's sanatorium.

3998. Did you hear how she was provided with clothing to go to a public institution?—I heard that the nurses complained of her clothing not being in a fit condition.

3999. Is it true that she had only one night-gown for herself and one for the expected baby?—I was told so.

4000. Is it true that there are colonies of real aborigines living on their heads?—I never examined their heads. I have seen instances of that kind, but not so bad as that.

4001. Do you think it would be a good thing to establish a resident medical man on the place?—I do not think a man would justify the expenditure. I think it would be well to have a medical man at Healesville at all events.

4002. Supposing the Government gave him a subsidy?—I think that would be a very good thing.

4003. If the Government offered £200 a year, with the practice he would get in the district, a good doctor would accept it?—I think so. I think there was one here who got a much less amount than that who accepted, but did not remain.

4004. How much did the Government offer him?—I forget how much; it was not so much as that; I think it was £80—I am not certain. I think a small building put up there, with accommodation for sick people, a black woman appointed as nurse or attendant—when those blacks are sick they might be attended to in that way, and it would be better than sending them to the hospital, and, in an urgent case, have a medical man called in.

4005. The recent opinions of medical men tend to this—that everything offensive should be removed from the room. Would it not be better that the people had spittoons instead of having the expectoration lying on the floor?—Certainly.

4006. *By Captain Page.*—When was that marriage fee that was not paid?—It was in the time of Mr. Halliday's management. I applied for it, and I have some of your letters on the subject.

4007. Did not they state that that marriage fee would be paid, but no more would be paid?—No; it was stated that the Board had made a regulation that for the future the fees were to be deducted from the wages of the men. That regulation was made about six weeks after this marriage took place.

4008. Was the marriage performed in 1877 early?—I think so.

4009. April 1877 was the last fee sent to you; that was in Mr. Halliday's time; it was sent to you in 1879?—I have not got the papers here—it may be in the Treasury. When I applied at the Board office they told me it was in the Treasury, and I went to the Treasury. I gave up going in disgust.

The witness withdrew.

The Rev. Frederick Philip Strickland sworn and further examined.

The Rev.
F. P. Strickland,
18th Nov. 1881.

4010. There have been statements made to-day with reference to a reward that was offered for the finding of a cow, which, it was stated, was paid to you by a Mr. Rourke of Lillydale, and which you refused to hand over to Bobby Wandon?—I was travelling from Healesville to Lillydale by coach, and some gentleman said, "Are you Mr. Strickland of Coranderrk?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I have half a sovereign for one of your men for bringing a cow home." I said, "What is his name?" "Bobby Wandon, will you give it to him?" I saw Wandon and I said, "I have half a sovereign to give to you, but I am not sure that you ought to have the half-sovereign—whether you should receive money for shepherding people's cattle on the station—I will think of it." Having thought of it, I thought it was not worth the trouble of query, and I gave him the half-sovereign.

4011. Were you present when Wandon gave his evidence?—I was.

4012. Was his statement true?—It was not true. The fact of the half-sovereign being received and paid was true, but the time was exaggerated; it was just as I say.

4013. Did you report it to Captain Page?—I do not know that I did; I do not think so.

4014. *The witness to Captain Page.*—Do you remember my saying anything to you about the 10s.?—You may have told me, but I do not remember it.

The witness.—All that Wandon says about the court is a concoction from beginning to end.

4015. Was he stock-rider at the time?—He was.

4016. You were, at the time, of opinion that the money did not legally belong to him?—I was of opinion that the money should not be paid for looking for stranger's cattle.

4017. You received the money?—Yes, this man said it belonged to Wandon and I gave it to him. The court business is a fabrication.

4018. There is another matter that Mr. Clarke referred to in his evidence, have you anything to say about that?—I wish to say that, having travelled to and from Melbourne many times during the three years I have been here, I think it very possible that, when the coach pulled up at Wilson's, I had a glass of wine, and if I am travelling past there and think proper to do so, I shall do so again without asking permission of anybody. The pocketing or bringing away a bottle of wine I think is a mistake, but even if I did, I do not know who is to tell me I shall not. I think it probable that I did take a glass of wine—I do not object to that statement.

4019. There is another statement with reference to your selling a pair of wheels—did you sell those wheels?—Holland came to me at the station and said "Mr. Strickland, I am in trouble, will you help me?" I said, "I will, if I can, what is it?" He said, "My dray is broken down; there is an old dray of yours that has been lying in the bush for eight or nine months—if you will allow me to use those wheels it will greatly assist me." "Oh, yes," I said, "if we wanted the wheels I am sure you would help us." I heard no more of it until I met him in the neighborhood, and he said, "I have patched up that pair to fit my dray, will you let me have them?" I thought I was doing a very prudent thing in disposing of a thing that was of no use. I said, "What do you think it is worth?" He said, "It is worth nothing to you—I think it is worth 30s." I said, "Is that all it is worth, because I do not know anything about wheels." "Yes," he said, "I think it is." I said, "It is no use to us, if it is useful to you have it at 30s." A few days afterwards I came into the village, and a Mr. Hall met me and said, "There is going to be mischief made about your selling Holland those wheels." I went to Holland and said, "Do not get into any trouble about those wheels; there is your 30s. back." I had put it into my desk. It had not been used. I said, "Take the 30s. back and let the man have the wheels." The money was given back and the wheels were returned.

4020. You did not report it to Captain Page?—I do not think I did.

4021. Was it your intention to report it to him?—Certainly, as much as I reported anything else.

4022. How long was it after the wheels were sold that you returned the money?—It may be two or three weeks. I studiously avoided coming into the township. If I came in and stumbled over an inequality they would declare I was drunk. If there is hell upon earth it is Coranderrk. It would be very well but for foreign interference.

4023. It has been stated, in evidence given yesterday, that you, one night going home from Healesville to Coranderrk, fell off the horse—that you were under the influence of liquor?—On the occasion referred to I left the station to come into Healesville for letters. When at the Post Office I stopped there. I did not come into Healesville and hang up my horse at the fence. While talking to Mr. Cornish, about different things, the wind blew the gate too, and the bang of the gate startled my horse. He broke his bridle and started off home. I said, "I am sorry for that, for if it should get home Mrs. Strickland will think I have been thrown." I started to walk after my horse. Mr. Chandler tried to stop it, but it went towards the Yarra Flats. I walked in that direction for perhaps a mile and a half, when I found the horse had stopped. He came along the road again and I followed him home; he went on before me. When I got near the cow shed I wanted to be seen by my family, but having these new boots I thought I should stop my horse. I had got to the cow shed and I tripped and fell down—that is the sum and substance of my falling from my horse. [*The witness produced a piece of bridle.*]

4024. You cannot say but that she saw you?—I cannot, but I can say this, that I had nothing in my lips stronger than a cup of tea for that day or many days before.

John Cornish sworn and examined.

John Cornish,
18th Nov. 1881.

4025. How long ago is it since the occurrence mentioned by Mrs. Deans?—Saturday, 29th October; Mr. Strickland was at my place.

4026. Did he get a new pair of boots?—He did.

4027. Did he put them on?—He did.

4028. Had he a horse?—He had.

4029. Did he leave him outside at the fence?—He did.

4030. Did the horse break away?—He did, and the wind blew the gate to and it startled the horse—the bridle broke and away the horse went.

4031. Do you know anything further about the matter?—Not of my own knowledge.

4032. Did you see him any more that day?—No, I can almost swear he did not go to the township that day. I believe he came in to see me.

4033. How long was he at your place?—Perhaps about an hour—from half an hour to an hour.

4034. On that occasion he did not pass your place towards the township?—He did not.

4035. He could not return by the road and come to the township?—No.

4036. Was there anything peculiar about Mr. Strickland?—Not at all.

4037. Did he appear excited?—Not at all; he was calm and composed as usual.

4038. Is it your opinion he was not under the influence of liquor?—No more than I am at the present moment.

4039. You are a total abstainer?—Yes. I think I should detect it sooner on that account than other people. I neither smelt it nor saw any sign of it.

4040. Have you heard it reported he fell off his horse?—I have.

4041. Are you sure that had reference to this day of the slip?—I am given to understand so. I believe so. I do not know for certain.

4042. You are sure that it was not true that he was not under the influence of drink?—Perfectly satisfied that he was not under the influence of drink.

4043. Were you at home last Saturday week—the Saturday after that Saturday?—Yes, I was.

4044. You did not see Mr. Strickland that day?—Yes. I saw him on the 5th of the present month. I saw him—he was at my shop again on that day and paid me an account.

4045. Had he a horse that day?—Yes.

4046. Did he leave your place going towards home when he left your place?—I think so; but I am not quite positive.

4047. Was he under the influence of drink then?—Certainly not.

4048. Not more than the Saturday before?—Certainly not. I have seen him at my shop on various occasions, and never saw the slightest sign of drink on him at all.

4049. How long have you been at Healesville?—Five years come next Christmas.

4050. You were here before Mr. Strickland came?—Yes.

4051. Are you in the habit of seeing the blacks about the township?—Yes, frequently.

4052. How do they behave when they come to the township?—Generally pretty well, I see nothing to complain of.

4053. Are they better behaved now than when you first came?—I cannot say that I noticed any difference.

4054. Do they deal with you at all?—Very little.

4055. Do you visit Coranderrk yourself?—No, I know nothing about it. I have only been there once or twice. I know nothing about the place.

4056. Have you seen them going about the township the worse of drink?—No, I cannot say that I have.

The witness withdrew.

Captain A. M. A. Page sworn and further examined.

4057. Would you consider it against the rules of the Board if a stockrider on the station should take a reward offered for finding an animal?—Not once in a way. If that were kept up, I think it would lead to a great deal of bribery going on. I only know of one case—this one that was spoken of.

Captain A. M. A.
Page,
18th Nov. 1881.

4058. Was that reported to you?—I really cannot say.

4059. You cannot say whether you instructed Mr. Strickland to hand over the ten shillings to Wandon or not?—No.

4060. Would you approve of Mr. Strickland keeping it from him?—No, he had no right to keep it; it was not Government money.

4061. Have you a stockrider now?—No.

4062. Do you believe that it is not an advantage to have a stockrider?—A white one, I think it would be. I think it is no advantage to have a half-caste or black on that station. I simply refer, of course, to Coranderrk; I am not speaking in a general way.

4063. Do you understand farming?—Not a great deal.

4064. Would you be a judge of whether the farm at Coranderrk was properly managed or not?—Whether the proper crops went in at the proper time?

4065. Yes—whether it was properly ploughed and drained, and so on?—I think I should know about the ploughing and draining.

4066. Have you ever had occasion to complain it was not properly done?—I do not think I have. On one part—the lower part—there was some ploughing I found fault with.

4067. Has Harris ever complained that he could not put in a crop for the want of labor?—After the damage has been done he has complained, but not before. He never complained before it.

4068. Does that refer to a year or two ago?—Last year.

4069. Have you taken precautions this year?—I sent up oats to him to put in a crop, and when I went up I found the crop had not been put in; I was told he had not put it in because he had not a ploughman, and the season was lost.* He has never asked for labor and not got it.

4070. Has he got proper crops this year?—Oats and potatoes.

4071. How much potatoes were sent up?—One ton of seed potatoes.

4072. How much ground has he got?—Five acres, I think he said.

4073. You do not know, from your own knowledge, the quantity of potatoes to the acre?—I have seen three hundredweight put in to the acre.

4074. You do not know the area of ground under potatoes this year of your own knowledge?—I do not.

4075. Are they coming up?—They were only put in the other day.

4076. If Harris chose to put five or six acres under potatoes — ?—Certainly not. I told him this year to put the whole of the paddock near the house under potatoes.

* This answer refers to last year.

Captain A. M. A.
Page,
continued,
18th Nov. 1881,

4077. Have you instructed him to put in any other vegetables?—Not directly. I sent up all kinds of seeds.

4078. Do you think the land is suitable for turnips and carrots?—I do not think it is suitable for vegetables at all.

4079. If he chose to put them in would you find fault with him?—Certainly not. He has the seeds sent up, and he ought to know what to do with them.

4080. If Harris was to put in five acres of potatoes would he have the seed?—He can get what seed he likes. It is always sent to him, whatever he wants.

4081. If he complained that he had not labour enough to attend to the farm as well as the hops, would you consider it your duty to employ white labour?—Certainly. I have told him so before. I have employed white labour for ploughing.

4082. Do you consider it advisable to have sufficient vegetables for the station?—I think so.

4083. Have there been enough?—I do not think so. The crops have failed.

4084. Not sufficient for the blacks?—I think not, judging from what one sees. The vegetables never seem to come up.

4085. Is the Board against letting the half-castes go out to service?—The men or the girls?

4086. Both?—The girls they have an objection to.

4087. How is it you allow the one with the Reverend Mr. Hamilton?—The girl was out when I came. I heard the girl was out. Suddenly she made her appearance on the station. We did not know what to do with her. She was a young unmarried girl. Afterwards Mr. Hamilton said she wished to come back again. I was only too glad to let her go on the old certificate.

4088. How did she go away?—She left of her own accord.

4089. Have you seen her lately?—No, I do not think I have.

4090. Is she comfortable?—I think so. I could hardly say. I saw her once in Melbourne. She came to the office shortly after she came back from the station.

4091. A half-caste?—Yes.

4092. If you think she is comfortable do you think it would be against her own interest to allow them to go into respectable families?—I have had no experience in the matter myself. I can only say what I have heard others say.

4093. The Board is against it?—Certainly.

4094. Have they an equal objection to the men going out?—If they can go to service they have no objection. The only objection is that a man will come and ask to go away at the very time when he is wanted on the station, where there is employment for him, and we could not do without his services. If a married man wanted to go away with his wife at the slack time of the year we would never object.

4095. Do they take their wives and families when they go away shearing?—No, they ought to do so.

4096. When the husbands are away do you give rations to the wives?—Yes.

4097. Do you give them meat?—Yes.

4098. Does the husband pay for that on his return?—I never heard of it.

4099. Do they ever bring money back with them?—We never see much of that.

4100. Do they not bring their cheques with them from Wappan?—They start with them.

4101. I (*Mrs. Bon*) send them to you?—Only once, I think.

4102. You only remember one?—Yes.

4103. I suppose if you received it more than once, they have received it or they would complain?—Very quickly.

4104. You do not deduct anything if you receive a cheque?—No.

4105. Do you remember Wandon asking not to be stock-keeper any longer, about three months before he was dismissed?—He might have asked Mr. Strickland, I do not remember his asking me.

4106. Do you place no importance on the cattle of the station?—Yes—in what way do you mean?

4107. Do you look upon them as nothing?—No.

4108. Then why do you allow them to run at large?—Because it is perfectly useless putting up the fence unless you have a white stockman.

4109. Why have you not tried a white stockman?—The Board does not approve of white labor if they can possibly help it.

4110. Is it any advantage to you or to any superintendent to work the station at a low figure—to work the place cheaply?—Rather the other way, I think.

4111. Would the Board approve of having a small expenditure rather than a large one?—I think not. There is a certain amount of money granted, and of course we must keep within bounds.

4112. How much do you get?—£7,500 yearly.

4113. For all the stations?—For all the stations.

4114. Is it sometimes more or less?—It has never been less than £7,500.

4115. Has it ever been more?—Once I think we got £3,000.

4116. That would be £10,500 a year?—Yes.

4117. How many blacks receive benefit from that money?—About 850, as near as possible.

4118. How many are at the settlements?—In rough numbers, about 550.

4119. Are there so many wanderers?—I supply about 180 in the Swan Hill district. It is hard to get the exact numbers, because it is on the boundary. The local guardians on the river distribute the goods.

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Laura Deans sworn; further examined.

Mrs. L. Deans,
18th Nov. 1881.

4120. You made some statement yesterday as to seeing Mr. Strickland fall off his horse?—I did not see him fall off the horse. The horse came home in front of him, and I saw him fall.

4121. Are you sure about the date?—I am not sure. I could not say whether it was three Saturdays ago from last Saturday, or two. I would not be on my oath about the Saturday.

The witness withdrew.

Frederick Hamilton Narraway sworn and examined.

4122. You are a publican here?—Yes, but my wife holds the license, as I am an accountant by F. H. Narraway, 18th Nov. 1831.
 profession, and very often have to be away.
 4123. How long have you been in the township?—Three years.
 4124. Do you know Coranderrk station?—I do.
 4125. Do you often visit there?—I have visited several times, passing through and otherwise.
 4126. Do you know anything of the management there—how they deal with the blacks?—I could not say. I have heard of the management.
 4127. Do you know from your own knowledge that they are badly treated?—My observation has been that they have been well treated.
 4128. Do you profess to know anything about the management of the hops or the farming?—No.
 4129. Do you often see them come to the township?—Every day almost.
 4130. How do they behave as a rule?—As a rule they behave well.
 4131. As well as white people?—As well as white people.
 4132. *By Mr. Strickland.*—Have the people the appearance of being badly fed or clothed—what is your opinion?—My opinion is, they have been well clothed and treated, and I have heard the blacks on the station in your presence speak very highly of you.
 4133. *By the Board.*—But away from him?—I have never heard them say a word.
 4134. *By Mr. Strickland.*—Have they the appearance of being reasonably fed?—Yes; I think well fed.
 4135. Have you seen any of them in the last two years in a state of intoxication about the town?—Certainly not.

The witness withdrew.

Charles Frederick Woolnough sworn and examined.

4136. How long have you been in Healesville?—About twenty-one months. C. F. Woolnough, 18th Nov. 1831.
 4137. You are a teacher?—Yes, of a State school.
 4138. Do you know Coranderrk?—I merely know of it by having visited over there once or twice.
 4139. Have you visited it pretty often since you have been here?—About three or four times.
 4140. Have you been there recently?—I think I was there on Saturday week last.
 4141. What is your impression of the blacks—are they comfortable?—That would be going rather far. I have never taken particular notice. As far as I could see they are well fed.
 4142. Would you say they are well fed?—As far as I could see I should say they were.
 4143. You cannot say how they are fed?—I know nothing whatever about that.
 4144. Do they always appear pretty well clad?—I have seen but so few of them I could not say. All I have seen have been warmly clad.
 4145. Are you a judge of hop-growing?—No.
 4146. Nor of the management of a farm?—Even if I were I have had no opportunity of judging.
 4147. Do you see the blacks come to Healesville?—Yes, I have occasionally seen them.
 4148. What is their conduct?—Always most orderly and very respectful to me. So far as I have seen they have been especially respectful.
 4149. Have you seen any of them drunk?—Not one.
 4150. Do you ever see them on Sunday?—I cannot say I have. I do not come into the township on Sundays except to go to a place of worship.
 4151. Their conduct would compare favorably with that of the white people?—Quite.

The witness withdrew.

Mrs. Jane Hall sworn and examined.

4152. How long have you been in Healesville?—Twenty years, about. Mrs. Jane Hall, 18th Nov. 1831.
 4153. You know Coranderrk?—Yes.
 4154. You know almost all the blacks there?—Yes.
 4155. Do you often see them come to the township?—Yes.
 4156. Have they had good clothes on?—Yes, I have never seen them otherwise.
 4157. Did they seem well fed?—I have never understood different. They used to have to sell fish for their food, but that has not been of late years.
 4158. How long since?—Sometime ago, but not latterly.
 4159. Do you see them going about selling baskets?—No, not now.
 4160. What is their behaviour when they are in the township?—Very good, I think.
 4161. You do not see them making a noise or getting drunk?—Not at all, ever since I have known them.
 4162. Do you know anything about the management of Coranderrk—did you ever attend any of the sick?—No; I have attended; a friend came over and got things from me.
 4163. You do not know how they are treated in Coranderrk?—No, all I know about it is my business.
 4164. You have not gone into their huts and seen their food?—No; as far as I am concerned, I think everything has been done very nicely. Mr. Strickland has been a very nice manager, as far as I am concerned.
 4165. *By Captain Page.*—You think they look as well as they used to?—I think they look far better than they used to do.

The witness withdrew.

The following documents were handed in to the Board:—

"SIR,

"Coranderrk Station, November 16th 1881.

"We want the Board and the Inspector, Captain Page, to be no longer over us. We want only one man here, and that is Mr. John Green, and the station to be under the Chief Secretary; then we will show the country that the station could self-support itself.

"These are the names of those that wish this to be done.

Wm. Barak, X	Alick Campbell, X	Ellen Richard, X	Edith Brangy,
Thos. Mickie, X	Thos. Dunolly,	Harriett, X	Mary Ann McClennan,
Dick Richard, X	Alfred Davis,	Annie Hamilton, X	Bella Lee,
Thos. Avoca, X	Willie Parker,	Mary, X	Alice Grant,
Thos. Gilman, X	Willie Hamilton, X	Jessie Dunolly,	Thomas Dick,
Johnny Terrick, X	Johnny Charles,	Louisa Hunter, X	William Edmond
Lankey, X	Jemima Wandon,	Dinah Hunter,	Alexander Briggs,
Spider, X	Emma Campbell, X	Caroline Morgan, X	Abel Terrick,
M. Simpson,	Jenny Campbell,	Maggie Harmoney	Finnimore Jackson,
H. Harmoney,	Lizzie Charles, X	Lizzie Davis	Joseph Hunter
Alfred Morgan,	Eliza Mickie, X	Metild Simpson, X	Johon Patterson."
Robert Wandon,	Roy, X		

"SIR,

"Coranderrk, November 17th, 1881.

"I have seen in the newspaper that Mr. Captain Page said that we get two suits of clothes per year. That is false. We only get one suit of clothes per year; and it is true that the women have to make flannel shirts for the men out of their flannel which they get for their petticoats. And he said that it never reached his ear about meat. He was told on three occasions about want of meat. On another occasion Alfred Morgan asked Mr. Captain Page about the dray wheels being sold; and he said if there were a hundred words said between here and Healesville, ninety-nine were lies; and he also left orders with Thomas Harris for us to buy straw out of the hay which grows here on the station. And I have seen Mr. Strickland; I and Boby Wandon saw him on the 5th of February 1881 with liquor in him; and when we tell Mr. Captain Page anything, he don't care about listening to anything said. We could see what Mr. Captain Page wanted to do. He did not want to make any improvement on the station. He wanted to leave it open for every visitor to see it laying waste, so the visitors go to Melbourne and report it. It is not our fault, because we were not allowed to go further than the orders left by Mr. Captain Page. I also wish to state that while my wife was sick or in confinement I had to ask for a loan of a blanket on two occasions. The first time I got the loan of a blanket I sent it back, and this time I did not; and I also asked Mrs. Strickland for medicine—I asked for rhubarb, and she gave it to me. She never measured a dose, but just gave me it out of a teaspoon into a paper, so I brought it home; so I got it here, and some pills.

"I remain your most obedient servant,

"THOS. DUNOLLY."

"This is evidence.—About two years ago that Mr. Capt. Page let me go for the good of my health to Framlingham station. I asked for to go there. He told me to stay for three months, so I stayed for three months. So I wanted to come back. Mr. Goodall, the manager of that station, told me that this station was to be broken up. So we said to him (that is, to Mr. Goodall) we must go home and see about it. So we walked to Camperdown; we stopped there for a week, and we also asked Mr. Dawson to write to Capt. Page for a pass for us while we were staying, and we started away to Colac walking. So when we got to Colac Capt. Page sent an answer back to the station-master, stating that we must go back to Framlingham. It was too wet up at Coranderrk, yet we stopped there for a couple of days, and Mr. Smith, the station-master at Colac, telegraphed to Mr. Capt. Page, and he received no answer; and so I told Mr. Smith I could not wait any longer—I must go on. So Mr. Smith told us, 'You go to the next railway station'—that is Berragooder—'If I get an answer I will send it to you.' So we stayed there one night at Berragooder. So in the morning we went to the railway-master at that station. He told us, 'Here, go in the train as far as Geelong,' so we did go as far as Geelong. We came to Mr. Garrett, in Geelong. Mr. Garrett said, 'Well, what are you going to do?' 'Well, we are going to walk.' So Mr. Garrett said, 'Not while I am here you won't walk it'; and said that Mr. Capt. Page ought to be ashamed of himself for not sending us a pass, and he gave us a note to take to the railway-master to get our pass; so we got our pass for Melbourne. Then I came home. So when I worked on here pay-day came, and Mr. Capt. Page sent up to Mr. Strickland to take ten shillings of my wages, which Mr. Strickland did. That was the ten shillings for the fare from Geelong to Melbourne in the railway; so Capt. Page robbed me.—DICK RICHARD. X"

"Since Mr. Capt. Page took the charge of the Coranderrk station he got my geese sold by Mr. Strickland when I went up with my wife and family up the country for a month, and he made me sell my pig also and my ducks. And as for Capt. Page saying that we got cows, it is untrue, for Capt. Page told me not to touch any cow in the yard, and told me to go out of the yard and to go to Mr. Strickland and get milk from the house; and Jack Briggs was milking that morning, and I could not get any milk for the baby. And then Capt. Page went to the township and stopped the police from summoning Mr. Strickland for the sore-backed horses, and then he went back to Melbourne; and he was never a friend to the blacks, and Mr. Strickland also. And Mr. Strickland fetched the police and told me to clear out of the hut in spite of me; and then Capt. Page would not let me and William Barriek and Johney Terrick pick hops afterwards; and Mr. Strickland stopped my rations and told my wife and children to go down to the

house and eat there, which they did not go, because I went down to my friend, Mrs. Bon, and Mrs. Bon and I went to Capt. Page's office, and he was not in, and then we went to Mr. Jennings' office, and I asked him if I could get a pair of boots and a coat, and he said he would not give me any order, and told me to go home; and that is all the thanks I got from him—from the member of the Board. And we don't want any Board nor inspecting Capt. Page over us—only one man, that is Mr. John Green, and the station to be under the Chief Secretary; and we will show to the country that we can work it and make it pay, and I know it will.—THOMAS MICKY."

William Barrick's Statement.

"Coranderrk Station.

"I went to Mr. Strickland, and Robert Wandon with me, to ask him for a pass the time my boy was very bad, and he gave me the pass, but no money for the road; and Mr. Strickland told me that he would write to Capt. Page to meet me at the coach office in Melbourne, and when I went to Melbourne nobody was there to meet us, and we went up to the stables, and we went to Richmond, to look for my friend, Mr. Williams, but he had left the house, and we did not know where to go, and it was dark and cool, and I told my boy that we would go to Kew to Mrs. Bon; and I had to carry my boy to Mrs. Bon, and it was late in the night, and we had supper there, and we went to an hotel and Mrs. Bon gave me a shilling for my bed; and Mrs. Bon went with us to Mr. Dow's office. He was not in—only his brother and I think Mrs. MacDonald, that sent me to the hospital, and I left him there. And I saw Capt. Page next day in the hospital, and he said, 'Why did you not come up to the office?' And I said to him, 'I had no letter from Mr. Strickland to you.' And Capt. Page said to me that he got a letter from Mr. Strickland, and I and Capt. Page waited till five o'clock. And in the morning I went to Mr. Strickland for my ticket and Robert Wandon with me, and I said to Mrs. Strickland, 'Will you give me a letter for Dr. Elms to see my boy?' And she said, 'I'll see Mr. Strickland'; and he said, 'No,' because he could not alter the ticket. 'If my boy is very ill, I will bring him back again; but if not, I will go on to Melbourne.' And we don't want any Board nor inspecting Capt. Page over us—only one man, that is Mr. Green, and the station to be under the Chief Secretary; and then we will show to the country that we can work it and make it pay, and I know it will.—WILLIAM BERRICK."

"This is my evidence:—I have heard in the newspaper that Mr. Capt. Page said that no one ever complained to him about meat. I for one told Mr. Strickland to write to Capt. Page to give us a little more meat while we were digging in the hop paddock. So Mr. Strickland wrote, and he received an answer from Capt. Page, telling him that if I was not satisfied with what I was getting he would send me off the place.—ALICK CAMPBELL. X Witnesses—Thos. Dunolly and Bobby Wandon.

"SIR,

"Coranderrk, November 17th, 1881.

"I am now about to state my complaints. I asked Mr. Strickland to send for the doctor in Lillydale, and he said to me that he gets a good rap on the knuckles; so I said to him, 'never mind.' This was when my little child was sick, but she is dead now. As for milk, I had to buy it the time my little child was sick. When I used to ask for milk they used to give me skim milk, what was no good for a sick child. I was speaking to Mr. Capt. Page about work, such as mending the drays and yokes, and making coffins. I asked Capt. Page would he give me a little encouragement to mend those things. The answer he gave me was, 'If you don't mind your business, or don't keep quiet,' he would put me off the station. There are Government tools for the use of the station, so I made a coffin the other day for one of our friends. I sent my wife down to Mrs. Strickland for a plane, and she could not get it, so I told Thomas Harris if I could not get a plane I would not do anything without I have one. So Thomas Harris went down and asked Mrs. Strickland, and Thomas Harris could not get the plane, but had to have a little talking over it first. They were not willing to give the plane till Thomas Harris said he would report them; so they gave it out. On the 21st of January I got a loan of £1 of Thomas Harris. I got this money to pay for horse stabling. I got the loan of Mr. Green's buggy and Mr. Harris's horse to take her to the hospital, and it was through Mr. Green I got her into the hospital, and Mr. Green was in time to help me in. If it was not for Mr. Green I would not have taken her in. I had two flannel drawers made out of my wife's flannel when she got them for petticoats.

"I remain your obedient servant,

"WILLIAM PARKER."

Mrs. Hamilton's evidence.

"My child took bad on the Sunday morning, from eating corn beef boiled with cabbage. On Sunday night I gave her a good bath and I gave her a dose of castor oil, and in the morning I found out that she was full of worms. She was everywhere playing. On Monday morning or Tuesday I took her down to see Mrs. Strickland, to see what was good for the pimples, and she gave me the medicine and it didn't do her any good, so I went to prayers on Thursday night, and she asked me if they were getting little better, and I said, 'they are getting no worse'; and she told me that I must not come in to prayers until my children are better. I did not like the word, but I like to go to prayers. She was frightened of me for fear they might catch it from me. So I went down for a bit of meat one day—my children were crying for soup. She made me stand where the bell is, and so I said, 'You must come up to my place to see what I want for my children.' They came up for nine days to see me and soon got tired of me. Only one daughter—that's Miss Alice—came, not Mr. Strickland and not Mrs., and the youngest took only three days after we got the medicine from Mr. Green; but as they never came in my place, only stood outside very near in the street, and I after them to throw things back to them. Mrs. Dean is the only one that came in my door and looked at them close. She came in my place every day and saw my children playing every day. They were not in bed. They said it was scarlet fever, and I couldn't get any medicine in

the house so I showed my daughter to Mr. Green, and I got my medicine from him. And the doctor said it was the scarlet fever, and he took it by the sore throat. We all had the sore throat at the time. They never come near me until poor David died. That is the time they came in my door, but I find that she didn't give anything for my children, and my children were wishing for milk and sago and oatmeal, and she did not send it up without asking. And she told everybody not to come in my place. I had nobody to send down for the things; she ought to send her daughter with those things."

Adjourned to Thursday next, at ten o'clock.

(Taken at Healesville.)

FRIDAY, 25TH NOVEMBER 1881.

Present :

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A.,

J. Kerr, Esq.,

G. de Pury, Esq.,

T. Embling, Esq., M.D., J.P.,

J. L. Dow, Esq., M.L.A.,

J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P.,

Mrs. Bon.

The Chairman read the following letter from the Rev. Alexander Mackie in explanation of his statement that the Central Board owed him a marriage fee :—

"Melbourne, 22nd November 1881.

"To E. H. Cameron, Esq., M.L.A., Chairman of the Board of Inquiry into the Coranderrk Station.

"DEAR SIR,

"I beg respectfully to make an explanation in regard to my statement that the Board still owed me a marriage fee. Inspector Page explained last Friday that it had been paid. It was due in April 1877. During that year I called at the Board Office and at the Treasury several times, but could not get it. I gave up the search in despair. After Inspector Page's statement, last Friday, I called at the Treasury to-day, and got the fee. I understand it was made payable, but unknown to me, sometime about the end of the year 1879. As it is now paid, I have the honor to request that all reference to the matter may be erased from the minutes of evidence given by me at Healesville on Friday last.

"I am, yours truly,

"ALEX. MACKIE."

Joseph Frederick Walker sworn and examined.

J. F. Walker,
25th Nov. 1881.

4166. What are you?—State School teacher at the Yarra Park school.

4167. Do you know anything about Coranderrk Station at Healesville?—Not much. I was never there but once. I went up. I was not very well. On the 7th October I went up. I went up with a person who was going up to that neighbourhood. I went as far as Healesville. I may state that the person was a contractor, a Mr. Ball, who has been employed in the neighbourhood. I returned on the Saturday. We called at the station (I was never there before) on the Friday, and, after giving his horse a feed, went on higher up the road; returned to the place, and stayed all night. The gentleman in charge, whom I had never seen but once before, invited us to stay the night.

4168. Who was the contractor?—Mr. Ball.

4169. Had he the work on the station?—He did the contracts. He had been working (to what extent I do not know). He showed me some works he had done—put up some buildings and drainage: bathrooms or something; he took me through and showed me the improvements. I mixed up pretty freely with the men; made it my business to go out among them. I was with them all the afternoon, and in the evening was with the men—went to their little chapel in the evening, and also the next morning. Those that did assemble were not so many as I expected at the church, but they behaved themselves remarkably well, and paid great attention to the service. The men told me they did not work on the Saturday, they gave themselves up to enjoyment, played cricket, and so on. I spoke to the men pretty freely about the place. They made no complaint to me of any kind; they did not express themselves either *pro* or *con*. I said to Harris, the foreman, "These children seem very fond of the Superintendent"—they were hanging about him. He said—"Yes, he is a very good man; there is only one thing we have against him, he does not mix himself enough with the men; he does not get about enough with the men." While the men were playing, I saw the wives go to the store and get their rations. I was not in the room, but I saw them go for them, and saw them come away with them in their hands. I went through the huts, and I was very much struck with one place; there were some more or less tidy than others, but there was one place I was very much struck with—there appeared to be a place for everything, and everything in its place—the woman appeared to have a pride in showing us round. I said, "This is quite a model of a house for white people." I went into the mia-mias; there were some old people living there, and I certainly felt their position was not so comfortable. I said to Mr. Strickland, "How is it those people are living in those places?" He said they declined living anywhere else because of their dogs; they had about twelve dogs, and they preferred living in the mia-mias than in houses, where the dogs would be excluded.

4170. What was the date of your visit?—7th October.

4171. Did any of the blacks complain that they were not comfortable?—Not one.

4172. Is it likely they would complain to a perfect stranger if they were not comfortable?—I appeared to have their confidence, and mixed up freely with them. I think they would have told me of anything special.

4173. After a few hours conversation you think they would have had confidence in you?—They spoke to me very freely, and got me ferns to bring home, and seemed very chatty and friendly. There was nothing of a confidential nature transpiring; they made no statement to me *pro* or *con*. J. F. Walker, continued, 25th Nov. 1881.

4174. Is there a church on the establishment?—There is a building used for that purpose.

4175. Was that your only visit?—My only visit.

4176. Did you sign the visitor's book?—I did. I said, "The discipline appears to be maintained without coercion." I may say, however, that I did say to Mr. Strickland, "The men appear to complain that you do not mix up enough with them." He said, "When I first came here I did so. I used to go into the huts and talk with them, and they took advantage of it. I found I was losing my position. I was losing my control by undue familiarity." That is the only thing I said to the gentleman in charge. I thought it might be a hint he could avail himself of for future use.

The witness withdrew.

John Morrison sworn and examined.

4177. You live at Healesville?—Yes.

4178. How long have you been residing at Healesville?—About sixteen years since I first came there. John Morrison, 25th Nov. 1881.

4179. What is your occupation?—I am a publican and storekeeper.

4180. Do you know Coranderk?—Yes, I have been there frequently.

4181. You have visited it often?—Frequently; when occasion required, following my occupation.

4182. Have you observed the conduct of the blacks?—I never took particular note as regards their conduct. I had no interest in observing it.

4183. Do they seem satisfied with their position at Coranderk?—I never knew them to be satisfied since I knew them.

4184. Do you think they are well fed?—At one time I know they used to come to me and get provisions, and run accounts with me; but for the latter years there has been nothing like that. They used to bring fish, and I used to purchase the fish and give them money and stores in return. Latterly I cannot get a black to catch a fish; they are evidently, I think, well fed.

4185. Why do they not fish and sell it as usual?—Because to my mind they have not the necessity of going to provide for themselves that they had in former years.

4186. Have you any means of knowing that as a fact?—I am speaking the truth.

4187. Is that your opinion, or is it from your own knowledge?—That is my opinion, but it is a fact.

4188. Do you serve out the rations to them?—I have been to their huts, and seen full-and-plenty in them. There was no complaint made by any visitor that I drove to the place.

4189. What day of the week were you there?—All days of the week.

4190. If you do not see the rations served out, how can you tell they are properly served?—I have been in the huts and seen provisions there, and if they were not provided for properly the provisions would not be there.

4191. Do you know whether those provisions were bought by the blacks themselves or not?—I do not know how they got them, but they were there.

4192. Is it likely they bought any from the butcher at Healesville?—The butcher supplies the black station, but under what agreement I know not.

4193. You do not know whether they are in debt to the butcher or not?—I do not.

4194. What is your general opinion about the station—do you think it advisable to keep the blacks there or shift them?—Some years ago, I may tell you, one of the half-castes came to me; he had previously been working for a man named Duddy; it was harvest time. This man, after finishing a job for Duddy, asked me for employment, and, as I had a little cultivation which I wanted cut down, I engaged him the same as any other person, at the same rate as I paid others. I got a note from Mr. Green, threatening me that, if I harboured him, he would have to prosecute me for so doing.

4195. Have you got that note?—I took very little notice of it at the time. I have not got the note. I do not suppose Mr. Green will deny that if you ask him.

4196. Is it your opinion the blacks should be removed or left?—I consider the blacks have got a hankering for that place, and, if they are removed, it will be with reluctance on their part to leave it.

4197. You do not think it would be advisable to remove?—Not the real black, but the half-castes I would remove. I would give the aboriginal all the indulgence the colony could afford.

4198. You would let the blacks have the station?—I would give them everything they wanted—all the luxuries the country could provide them with.

4199. Are you in the habit of driving visitors there often?—Yes.

4200. Do you hear any complaints from the blacks of the treatment they receive from the management?—Since I have been visiting the blacks, there is not an individual that ever I drove over there that ever made a complaint in my presence.

4201. Do you think they are well clad—good clothes, &c., generally?—Yes.

4202. Did they make use of expressions with regard to the good management of the place?—They have not done so to me.

4203. The chairman asked your experience of visitors, not of blacks?—I understand—did the blacks complain to me when I drive visitors there. I say, in my presence, the blacks never made any complaints to me or to the visitors.

4204. If visitors are in the habit of visiting the station, they would be apt to say whether it was well or badly managed; do visitors express any opinion to you as to the management?—They have expressed it, saying that there is room for improvement on it.

4205. They do not indulge in praises of the present management?—I do not enter into conversation with them concerning the management of Coranderk.

4206. They did say they thought there was room for improvement?—There is room for improvement upon anything.

John Morrison,
continued,
25th Nov. 1881.

4207. From what you have seen during the present management, do you think the blacks are well managed?—Do I understand you to ask me if the blacks have complained to me personally?

4208. Yes?—No.

4209. What do you think of the present management?—It is better than it was previously.

4210. Do you think it would be well managed if it were your own?—It would take a considerable amount of experience.

4211. Supposing you had a station, and a mile and a half of fencing undone on one side, would you keep that unfenced?—If it were my own I should have it fenced.

4212. How can you call it well managed?—One of my reasons for saying it was better managed than before was, that it was not fenced during the previous management. The fencing has been done since the previous management.

4213. In former managements they had a stockrider?—I do not know anything at all about the appointment of stockrider.

4214. The stockrider has been dismissed for two years?—I do not know about that.

4215. You do not know much about the present management?—Not about the stockrider. They are all stockriders as far as I am concerned.

4216. I suppose you merely speak as a casual observer?—I speak as I am asked.

4217. But of your knowledge of the management?—I know nothing at all of the internal management, such as the stockriders.

4218. You do not know that the stockrider has been dismissed?—I do not.

4219. And that the station has been without a stockrider for the last two years?—I do not.

4220. Have the cattle been impounded for the last two years?—I do not know.

4221. That the neighbours' stock are trespassing on the run and eating the grass?—I am aware of that.

4222. If the station were yours you would not allow that—was that allowed in former management?—Of course it was.

4223. How can you compare the present management with the previous if you do not know?—I will tell you. With the former management the blacks were roaming about the township looking for food. I had occasion to get hold of one and put him out of my kitchen, and the women came about. Such a thing does not exist now.

4224. Can you prove that such things do not exist in other hotels?—I am not speaking of hotels; it is the township.

4225. Are you sure that the thing does not exist in other places?—I do not know.

4226. It is your experience of Healesville?—My experience is that the women do not frequent Healesville and tempt the whites as they did formerly.

4227. You think the condition of the children compares favorably with the condition of the children of the working classes about there?—What I have seen of them does.

4228. Do you consider it just to compare the children of the primitive lords of the manor with the children of our poor?—I consider they have the privilege of a tutor. In the old country my wife has walked three miles through the snow to go to school—they have a special tutor.

4229. What is your idea of the special tutor business—what is your idea of keeping a special tutor for blacks that are intended to be kept eternally upon the black station—is that good management?—I have expressed my opinion long ago concerning that. There is a State school within a short distance, and to relieve the Government of the country of the expense of such an institution, as a teacher, the children should be put under the necessary discipline, marched to the school, and marched back again.

4230. Do you consider that they should be taught at all, as they are not allowed to go out to service?—In that case, as one of the blacks said to me, "Why give us white education, and bring us up as blacks?"

4231. Do you call that good management?—It would not be mine.

4232. In your opinion it is not good?—It is not good.

4233. It is your opinion they should be encouraged to go out to service?—Yes.

4234. Bundle them out as fast as you can?—Not bundle them out, but put them into good places.

4235. Have you any experience of their going out to service?—I knew a case where Mr. Halliday was summoned for keeping one.

4236. He was the manager?—He was.

4237. Did he take a black girl with him?—He did not take her, but she followed Mrs. Halliday after he left the station. He was summoned by the Board, and brought to the Healesville court, and fined for so doing.

4238. By the Aboriginal Board?—I do not know what Board it was. He was fined. He was told he ought to have had better sense.

4239. What age was the girl?—About eighteen or nineteen, I should imagine.

4240. Did she go back to the station?—Yes; she did not wish to come back.

4241. Do you think it would be to the advantage or benefit of Healesville if the station were broken up?—I have never given any consideration to that. In my own mind I should be very sorry to see the station broken up—to deprive the blacks of a home.

4242. In a selfish point of view, would it be to the advantage of Healesville?—I question whether it would; I think it would not.

4243. Would it not be better to have the yeomanry established there—selections?—I do not know; I should be very sorry to see the blacks deprived of a home.

4244. What effect do you think the railway going up there—taking up 400 or 500 visitors every week—would have; would that be a good thing for the black station?—I say this—although I would be very sorry to see the blacks taken away, I say that, in contact with the whites, they cannot help demoralizing themselves.

4245. Have you ever noticed the black girls going about with the white men about Healesville?—I have seen them putting themselves in the way of them.

4246. Have you seen them walking about the bush?—Yes, I have seen them on the banks of the Yarra, fishing.

4247. How long ago?—Three or four years ago.

4248. Have you seen them more than once?—Yes.

4249. Frequently?—Yes.

4250. Lately?—No.

4251. Were they without protection?—No more protection than you would be on the banks of the Yarra.

4252. Do you know of any cases of illegitimate children being born there?—No, but I know of the probabilities of such a thing occurring.

4253. Is the white population free from the same charge?—The police court will tell you that.

4254. You think, if the Coranderrk station were there for another fifty years, they would become all white?—About the most appropriate answer to that was given to me by Father Horan. On arriving at the Hobson's Bay railway he saw Lewis and Whitty's advertisement; he said, "You can make them white here without soap."

4255. *By Captain Page.*—You said the aborigines never made any complaints to you?—Not to me personally.

4256. You have known them for a long time?—I have.

4257. Would they confide in you after knowing you so long?—I should imagine they would.

4258. With reference to the girl Mr. Halliday took away, do you consider it a proper place to send a girl where young men are about?—Mr. Halliday had a son. I should imagine she would be under the care of Mrs. Halliday while she was there.

4259. A son is one of the family?—Yes, he was residing there.

4260. *By the Board.*—If the girls are to be kept from houses where there are sons, there can be very few places for them?—I consider Mr. Halliday's house was well conducted. I have every confidence that the girl was well protected.

The witness withdrew.

George A. Syme sworn and examined.

George A. Syme,
25th Nov. 1881.

4261. What is your occupation?—Journalist.

4262. Residing in Melbourne?—Yes.

4263. Do you know the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station?—Yes, I have known it for, I may say, many years now. I have known it by having visited it on several occasions years ago, and having visited it lately, and conversed with the blacks many times.

4264. Have you been there recently?—I was there last Christmas.

4265. That is the last time?—Yes.

4266. Have you been there often during the last few years?—No, not within the last five years; that is the only time.

4267. You used to go there occasionally previous to that?—I was there once and stayed about a week.

4268. How did you find the blacks—you have been in the habit of visiting there, and many of them know you—how did you find them when you last visited?—Very dissatisfied with the state of affairs—very troubled about the management. They were troubled with the apprehension that they were going to be removed.

4269. That the station was to be broken up?—Yes.

4270. Did they appear to you to be well fed?—Yes; I did not see anything to excite any suspicion otherwise.

4271. Were they well clad?—Yes, so far as I saw.

4272. What was the condition of their huts or houses?—I did not minutely examine them. So far as I observed, I did not see any reason to make a complaint on that score.

4273. They appeared to be discontented with the management?—Yes.

4274. Can you tell what was the cause of that, or did they give any reason?—They have always, since Mr. Green's removal, attributed the whole of their trouble to that event. I attribute the whole of the trouble to the same source.

4275. To Mr. Green's removal?—Yes.

4276. What trouble are you speaking of?—Before Mr. Green's removal we never heard of any disturbance at all, or any dissatisfaction on their part. There were no deputations coming down to town to interview the Minister; but ever since we have had these complaints there has been no end of trouble.

4277. Do you not think those complaints have been caused by outside influence?—No.

4278. The evidence we have received has been that, years ago, the blacks used to wander about begging and half clad; now they never do that. How do you account for that?—I never heard of that before.

4279. They want Mr. Green back, we know that, but the general appearance of the men and women shows that they are well fed and well looked after—better than ever before?—Yes; but there may be dissatisfaction arising from other sources than deficiency in regard to clothing and food.

4280. Do you think this discontent has arisen from pressure or persuasion from without?—I think not. In every conversation I have had with the blacks when they have referred to Mr. Green they have said, "We knew Mr. Green, we trusted Mr. Green, we looked up to him as a father." That was the feeling that seemed to be the source of their affection towards him. I thought, and I think still, it was a feature in their character that was creditable to them. I can easily understand if that was their feeling it would be a very difficult thing for any one to take his place—even if he were an angel from heaven there would be dissatisfaction. I think all the gentlemen who have succeeded Mr. Green at Coranderrk have been very much to be pitied. These blacks know very well that Mr. Green, years and years ago, came and sought them out when they were wandering about the country, brought them together, gave them what amount of civilization they have got. They know it is due to him, and seeing that they trusted him and looked up to him as a friend. I can easily understand why they want him back.

4281. You state that Mr. Green educated them—do you approve of educating half-castes?—Certainly I do, if you keep them there.

George A. Syme,
continued,
25th Nov. 1881.

4282. What use would their education be if you keep them there—would you educate them with a view to their mingling with the population outside?—I do not understand the question—does it imply that they would be better not educated?

4283. There is a certain portion of evidence elicited as to whether it would be desirable to keep the half-castes on the station or draft them away to service. The question is, is it desirable to educate the half-castes if they are to be kept as blacks?—If you could get them drafted away it would be better. I do not say that the institution should be kept up for half-castes.

4284. Would it not be better to draft them off when they are young than allow them to grow up to 17 or 18?—I dare say it would.

4285. Should not the girls be taught household work on the station to fit them for outside work?—Yes, of course, they should receive all the instruction they are capable of receiving.

4286. You were once a member of the Central Board?—Yes.

4287. What were your reasons for resigning?—I was a member of the Central Board for a while—I resigned in connection with this very question. When I was first a member of the Board there was never any complaint made about the management of Coranderrk, there was never a word said about the management being defective—there was never a word said about the removal of the blacks on account of the inclemency of the climate. All at once a committee was appointed to go up and investigate the state of affairs at Coranderrk. The committee was appointed at a meeting at which I was not present. I was asked to join the committee, but not knowing any reason why there should be a committee, I declined. When the committee brought in the report I was astonished to find that there seemed to be an animus in the report. The animus was indicated by the trivial nature of some of the complaints; indicated further by the readiness with which, when Mr. Green said he would like to be relieved, it was accepted as his resignation, and the eagerness to seize upon what some of the members seemed to consider an inconsistency. I could not see any inconsistency. I did not like to be involved at all in a thing of this sort—this committee seemed to me to have been appointed with the view of getting grounds of complaint against Mr. Green.

4288. A fishing inquiry?—A fishing inquiry.

4289. That was a committee of your own Board?—Yes; many of the complaints that were brought up seemed to be trifling—such, for instance, as the complaint that he did not cultivate enough potatoes or cabbages; if they had requested him to do so, he would have attended to their request.

4290. Did you find the place improved at all after Mr. Green left?—There have been many changes since he left. As to removing the station, we had just applied to the Government for £1,000 in order to commence the cultivation of hops, to erect a kiln, and bring water to the station; and simple reference to that fact will show that, at that time, the Board could not have entertained the idea of removing the blacks. When I tried to get a reason that would satisfy my own mind in dealing with the report, I could not get a satisfactory one. I said, "Do you wish to remove Mr. Green?"—the possibility of getting rid of him seemed to be entertained by some of the members. I said, "It is a great mistake." However, it came to this—they seemed bent upon the course—

4291. He had not resigned then?—No. They seemed bent upon a certain course which would lead to the removal of Mr. Green, and, perhaps, lead further. I could not get an amendment put—I could not get my protest recorded in the books. I was determined I would not be involved in a proceeding of that kind, and appear to be concurrent when I was really dissenting, and I resigned.

4292. You were the only one who resigned?—The only one—I was the only dissident.

4293. That was the end of the business?—Yes, as far as I was concerned.

4294. Do you know anything of the general management of the place, with reference to breeding cattle, and so on?—No.

4295. Were there any improvements made of late years on the place, such as erecting houses?—Yes, there were new houses built, and the hop grounds laid out, and the commencement of cultivation; those kilns were erected, and the station, as I understand, was self-sustaining.

4296. You do not know, of your own knowledge, whether the place was well managed?—No, I cannot speak about the management since Mr. Green left.

4297. Was Mr. Green many months in the year away from the station travelling?—Yes.

4298. *Bonâ fide*, he was not the resident manager there—only a part of his time he was there?—Only part of his time; but there was Mrs. Green.

4299. How was he employed otherwise?—He used to inspect the stations.

4300. He inspected all the stations as well as managed Coranderrk?—Yes.

4301. Did he also go collecting the blacks in the interior?—Occasionally.

4302. What was his salary?—I could not say; I think it was £300.

4303. *By Captain Page*.—A great deal has been said about the blacks being led by kindness; can you tell me how Mr. Green led them?—By kindness.

4304. Did you ever hear of his tying men up to a post and flogging them?—I never heard of it.

4305. Was he in the habit of sending for the police?—I never heard of it.

The witness withdrew.

Edward Ball sworn and examined.

Edward Ball,
25th Nov. 1881.

4306. Where do you reside?—Richmond.

4307. What are you?—Contractor and valuator.

4308. Do you know anything about the station at Coranderrk?—A little; I have been up there several times these last eight months.

4309. Were you ever up there before?—No.

4310. Your knowledge of it is during the last eight months?—Yes.

4311. How often have you been there?—I have been, I think, somewhere about seven or eight times, I suppose.

4312. What was your business there?—I went up to see about a contract I had there.

4313. What contract?—For building a kitchen and out-offices, and afterwards some four-roomed houses.

4314. Did you stay any nights there?—I stayed there all night on two occasions, if not three.

4315. Had you any of the blacks employed on your contracts?—Some of my men had them helping—lending a hand to dig—but not by my instructions.

4316. Were they paid?—Not by me.

4317. They were volunteers?—Yes.

4318. Do you think the blacks were satisfied with their lot there?—Yes, they appeared very satisfied indeed when I first went up.

4319. That is since the deputation waited upon Mr. Berry?—I could not say, I am sure.

4320. You say at first they were satisfied—does that infer that they were not latterly?—When I was up last there seemed some little trouble; that was in October. When I first went up I went up to see the places where I had to put up the buildings. When I went up again I went to lay out the buildings. I took the occasion to take up the tracts and distribute them among the blacks. I spoke to them in the little chapel; and, on a later occasion, I took up Mr. Charles Inglis, the Evangelist, and Mr. Walker, and they spoke both in the morning and in the evening.

4321. Did they attend—were there many there?—They attended very well indeed.

4322. You say you were in the habit of visiting them?—Yes; I went round to them all, and sometimes I took my daughter with me.

4323. Did they seem comfortable?—Yes, very comfortable. I was rather surprised when I first went up—they seemed very happy and would do anything for me.

4324. Did they complain to you at all that they were dissatisfied with the management or the treatment they received?—No, rather the reverse. I was surprised to see the cordial manner in which Mr. Strickland met them all, especially the little children; he has been round with me. I went round to hear their little complaints and satisfied them. They would say the roof leaked, or something of that sort, and I stopped it for them.

4325. Do you think Mr. Strickland was kind to the children?—They appeared very fond of him. A gentleman said, "You would think they were his children, the way they come to him," even the little babies in arms.

4326. Would you think he would thrash them brutally or severely?—I should be very much surprised indeed.

4327. You never saw anything of that kind?—No, not the least in the world.

4328. Did the mothers complain to you?—No. I had, I might say, the confidence of every one there.

4329. You cannot say how the rations are distributed among them?—No.

4330. Nor clothing?—No.

4331. Did they seem well clothed?—Yes, they seemed very well clothed—there was only one thing I spoke about, that was in reference to the shoes of the little ones. I said to Mr. Strickland, "I suppose they would rather run about without shoes than with them?" He said, "There is one little fellow, he got his shoes wet and put them to the fire and burnt them—that is how he is without them."

4332. Do they look well fed?—Yes, they look very well fed and healthy. I spoke to them all, every one of them; they never complained to me. I also spoke to Mr. Harris about it.

4333. Would you believe that they were so weak when you were there that they could not do half-work, owing to being half-starved?—No, I should not. I believe they would have done a day's work for me at any time.

4334. Have you any knowledge as to whether the station is well worked or not?—As a station?

4335. Yes?—I could not say. I know a little about ground. I have started places in different parts of the colony for gentlemen, selected land and so on, but as regards the management of the station I never entered into it, I could not say. I know that I went round when I first went up. I said, "Whose is the stock on the station?" Mr. Strickland said, "Some of it belongs to the blacks." I asked, "Are they allowed to keep stock?" "Oh, yes," he said, "there is one," pointing to Punch, "who sold one last week for £30." I said that was a great encouragement to them to persevere, especially as they were allowed to run the horses on the place.

4336. You say the houses were comfortable—did you see any furniture?—I saw some.

4337. Were all the houses furnished?—No, not all; what furniture they had they seemed to prefer to take out of the house and put in a bark hut.

4338. Their furniture?—Their blankets.

4339. Was their bedding good?—Yes.

4340. Did you examine them—did you open the bed-clothes and examine them?—No.

4341. Is it not an exception to see furniture in the houses?—No, not so far as I could say. I went round. I have had a great deal to do with the institutions here, and I thought it was very creditable.

4342. Are you aware that those who possess furniture have had to purchase it with their own money?—No, I made no inquiry about that.

4343. Are you aware that if they want furniture they must buy it themselves?—No, I am not. I went into some of the houses—I could not tell you the names—and I saw a vast improvement since I first went up. Four gentlemen went in with me the last time, and they said it was creditable to see those houses. It was the top house on the left-hand side; I do not know the name of the owner.

4344. Did you build the new cottages?—I did.

4345. Did you build the kitchen?—I did.

4346. Have you put a chimney to it?—Yes.

4347. To the kitchens in connection with the houses?—No, only to the new ones.

4348. Have they all got chimneys?—No; the two four-roomed houses I built have got chimneys in the kitchens.

4349. Has Punch's house got a chimney?—That is not a new four-roomed house; there were two rooms added to his house.

4350. You spoke of the little chapel?—They call it the chapel.

4351. When did you first commence building up there?—I think about March or April.

4352. All the improvements, I suppose, have been done by you?—Since that time they have, the laying on of the water and everything.

4353. They were all strangers to you when you went up there?—Yes.

Edward Ball,
continued.
25th Nov. 1881

4354. You found that a kind word had great power with them?—Yes, I believe they would do anything for me.

4355. When you gained their confidence did they tell you they were in debt?—No. I was led to believe there was work for them on the station, and by that means they could earn fair wages for their work.

4356. What would you consider fair wages; what would you be willing to give them for a fair hour's work. Are you aware that if the weather proves inclement they get no wages?—Yes, I heard that.

4357. You know they do not get paid if they do not work?—Yes.

4358. You are aware that if they cannot work they do not get paid?—No, I did not know that. As to the climate, I know a gentleman who stayed there for a week, and his health improved very much indeed.

4359. *By Captain Page.*—Do you pay your men when they cannot work?—No.

4360. *By the Board.*—You are aware that when the blacks cannot work in wet weather, the rations are served out all the same?—Yes, I heard so.

The witness withdrew.

Michael Tevlin sworn and examined.

Michael Tevlin,
25th Nov. 1881.

4361. What are you?—A constable stationed at Healesville.

4362. How long have you been there?—Nearly six years.

4363. Do you know Coranderrk?—Yes.

4364. Do you visit it often?—It depends upon the nature of my duties. I go when I am sent for.

4365. You do not go of your own accord?—No.

4366. Have you been there often?—Yes, very often. I generally patrol round that way.

4367. Have you observed during that time if the blacks were well fed?—I have never noticed any want with them in that way—they generally look healthy and well-cared for.

4368. Well clothed?—Yes, I never saw them deficient in clothing.

4369. As well as the general laboring classes?—They are when they have the taste to keep themselves clean, it depends very much upon their own habits the same as with white people.

4370. Do you know how the station is managed?—I have noticed there seems to be no regular system of management as far as agriculture is concerned.

4371. How do the blacks behave—are they unruly?—Their general character is good—they are very respectful to the law.

4372. Have you often had to take them to Healesville during the time you have been there?—I have taken a copy from the Case List Book of the Court, of the number of cases that have come before the Court during my time there.

4373. Give the date and the number of the complaints?—The first occasion was Mr. Ogilvie had John Webster up for illegally taking a horse, the property of the Aboriginal Board. Mr. Ogilvie was the manager of the station then.

4374. Was he convicted?—No, that case was dismissed. Mr. James Moore was summoned for purchasing a horse from John Webster; that was the first case that came under my notice; that was in February 1876. That was the only case in that year. In February 1877 I summoned an aboriginal named Martin Simpson for unlawfully lighting a fire in the open air.

4375. Was it in the reserve?—No, away from the station, near the Yarra Flats—he was away from the station fishing.

4376. Was he fined?—No, cautioned and discharged; Johnny Charles was with him on that occasion—both were discharged.

4377. You summon white people under similar circumstances?—Yes. The next case was April 5th of the same year, William Briggs summoned William Barak for assault—no appearance of complainant; the case was struck out.

4378. Was it a squabble between them?—Yes. On May 7th of the same year I summoned James Egan for unlawful assault.

4379. Upon whom?—As far as I can remember this case, I believe it was upon Johnny Charles. They had a row among themselves. Johnny Charles was at the Court on the same day for a similar offence. They were both cautioned and discharged on paying 2s. 6d. costs. John Briggs was charged at the local Court on the same day for unlawfully obstructing and assaulting the local guardian.

4380. Who was he?—Mr. Halliday, I think.

4381. Was he fined?—He was confined in the lock-up for twenty-four hours. On the same day Dan Hall was in charge for being drunk and disorderly.

4382. Where?—On the station, I believe.

4383. Is that not a private reserve?—No; the Bench have the power to make that a public place. On the same day James Barker was charged with a similar offence; he had twenty-four hours in the lock-up. Johnny Phillips was up the same day; he got twelve hours in the lock-up.

4384. Were all those on the same day?—Yes.

4385. The manager sent for you on account of the row on the station?—Yes. Caroline Morgan summoned her husband on the same day for an unlawful assault. No appearance. The case was struck out. I had a hawker, named Richard Kidd, up for supplying the aborigines with liquor. They had some drink on the station. That was at the hop-picking time. He was discharged. In May 1878 I had Tommy Banfield summoned for cruelty to a horse. He was fined 10s. and 2s. 6d. costs, or in default seven days. The fine was paid.

4386. Was that in Mr. Strickland's time?—I think in Mr. Halliday's time.

4387. What did he do to the horse?—The horse had a very sore back. He was riding it into the races at Healesville. On June 7th of the same year I summoned Mrs. Mallory for supplying an aboriginal with liquor.

4388. Did you get a conviction?—No; the case was dismissed. On the same day James Edgar had Tommy Banfield summoned for threatening language. That case was dismissed. On October 25th of the same year I had John Briggs summoned for unlawfully assaulting Ellen Richards, an aboriginal. He got a month's imprisonment. I had on the same day Richard Bowen up, for exposing to view an

obscene representation, and William Briggs for drawing the representation. They were both cautioned and discharged. On the same day Emily Hall had her husband, Dan Hall, summoned for unlawfully assaulting her; he got three months for that. On the same day Mr. Halliday was summoned for unlawfully harboring an aboriginal known as Maggie Stone; he was fined 5s.

Michael Teylin,
continued,
25th Nov. 1881.

4389. A half-caste girl?—More a quadroon. On November 26th of the same year I had Jimmy Buller summoned, the Queensland black, for drunk and riotous behaviour. He was sent to gaol for a month. On April 10th, 1879, Tommy Banfield was summoned for assaulting Alfred Morgan, and Alfred Morgan for assaulting Tommy Banfield. Both were ordered to be imprisoned for forty-eight hours. On the same day I had Dan Hall charged with damaging Government property. He was imprisoned for seven days.

4390. Do you know the nature of the property?—As far as I recollect, there was a gate with a chain, and a lock to secure the chain. They were in the habit of leaving the gate open, and the cattle used to get in and destroy the vegetables and orchard.

4391. He was accused of breaking the lock?—Yes. He was brought up as a matter of discipline. On the same day I had a man named A. G. Leslie for supplying liquor to the blacks.

4392. What was he?—He was there at the hop-picking time; he brought grog on to the station; he was fined 5s.

4393. That was a European?—Yes. On February 14th of the same year I had Elizabeth Wilson summoned for supplying liquor to an aboriginal.

4394. Who was she?—She used to keep a wine store on the Lillydale road. Fined 20s. and 2s. 6d. costs. On June 16th I had George Wilson summoned for the same offence; case dismissed. August 29th, Alfred Morgan was fined 20s., or seven days, for drunken and riotous behaviour.

4395. Where did he appear drunk?—I do not remember.

4396. I thought the fine was £10 for a white person supplying an aboriginal with drink?—That is the maximum. On August 29th I had Barfield summoned for supplying drink to an aboriginal; fined 40s. or one month's imprisonment; the fine was paid.

4397. Was he a hawker?—No, living in the locality; the black was in the township; he asked this man to get some drink for him, and he did so. On September 26th of the same year Buller was summoned for selling intoxicating liquor; he was fined 40s., or seven days; the fine was paid. On April 9th, 1880, M. Jefferson was summoned for supplying liquor to an aboriginal; fined 5s. and 2s. 6d. costs. The next cases that appeared were on July 2nd, Mr. Strickland was complainant. John Charles, Alfred Davis, Alfred Morgan, John Briggs, and Alick Campbell were charged with obstructing complainant in the execution of his duty.

4398. Can you give us an idea of the case?—I cannot recollect now.

4399. Was it in connection with the beating of the boy Phinnamore?—I scarcely think it was the same time.

4400. Were they fined?—Case against Charles dismissed; Davis fined 20s.; case against Morgan dismissed; Briggs fined 20s.; case against Campbell dismissed.

4401. Can you give us any idea of the nature of the evidence?—No, I did not take any further notice of them. On October 22nd of last year, Martin Mardey was summoned for supplying drink to an aboriginal; fined 20s. or forty-eight hours.

4402. This year the only case that has come before the Bench at Healesville was in January last, the 14th, Daniel Cameron was summoned for supplying drink to an aboriginal; case dismissed. There was one case that I have omitted to put down here, it was a man named Pompey. I arrested him nearly two years ago for stealing a horse in the Western District. I arrested him at Healesville and he got two years' imprisonment. Since then he came back.

4403. Coranderrk and Healesville are pretty equal in number are they not?—I dare say they would be.

4404. Do you think lawbreaking is more common among the blacks than among the whites?—I do not think there is much difference between them. If the blacks get drink among them they are very bad.

4405. You think that is the great cause of it?—Yes.

4406. Are the blacks improving in their conduct and behaviour?—Yes; there have never been less complaints than during the last twelve months.

4407. You know a good deal about the blacks?—I have been a good deal amongst them.

4408. Do you find them obedient to the law?—Yes, when a person has authority to speak to them. They are liable to be indifferent to a person who has no authority.

4409. Do they complain to you about anything?—No, if at all very seldom.

4410. Do they complain to you about not getting enough food?—No, I do not remember.

4411. Do they seem as contented now as when you first went to Healesville?—Scarcely. I notice when these inquiries are going on there is a feeling of discontent among them; it has a tendency to make them discontented.

4412. They do not want any foreign people to work on the station?—There is a general feeling of discontent amongst them when there is any trouble crops up like this—they are more dissatisfied the more the inquiries go on.

4413. Are you aware that the station is not fenced in?—The greater portion of it is not fenced.

4414. Open to all the cattle of the neighborhood?—Quite a commonage.

4415. Is there a common besides that?—There has been a common quite recently, but it has passed out of the hands of the people who were looking after it; there is any amount of open country about.

4416. Is the Government land on the Dalry station fenced in?—Dalry station is not fenced in.

4417. Does that join Coranderrk?—Yes, it runs up to the Don.

4418. There is no inducement for the Crown tenant to expend money in fencing when he merely rents the land from year to year?—I believe not.

4419. Would you consider it good management to own an estate for twenty years and not have it fenced in?—No, I would not consider it so.

4420. Do you know if the cattle of the Coranderrk station wander away from the station?—I find them when I go up the Don—it is all open country—they mix with the other cattle of Mr. Mitchell and other people in the district.

Michael Tevlin
continued.
25th Nov. 1881.

4421. The Coranderrk cattle go about on other people's land as well as other people's cattle coming on their land?—They have free access to all the land about, there is no distinction. I have seen Coranderrk cattle a good distance away from the station.

4422. Are you in the habit of visiting the huts at Coranderrk?—I frequently go in there—it depends upon the nature of my duty.

4423. Do you know how the rations are distributed?—No.

4424. Nor the clothing?—No.

4425. Do they look in appearance as well as they did six years ago?—They do.

4426. Have you as much sickness there?—Not at present. They pine away, and get moping about. You will always find in a population of 120, or 130 people, somebody ailing.

4427. Do you think they would be improved if they were moved further away from liquor?—No doubt drink is at the bottom of any mischief.

4428. That drink is brought to them, or how do they get it?—They are very artful about it; they will not get the drink in the township. Some of them are so white that they are regarded as whites, and they get a drink and go home quietly; but they have no means of coming and getting drunk; nor will the Europeans supply them with drink generally, but when the hop-pickers are about they are most artful in asking people to go and get drink for them.

4429. Do you think the publican is too leniently dealt with in being fined 5s.?—That is in the discretion of the Bench. In the case of Leslie, he was just out from England. He was up there picking hops. He explained to the Bench that he did not understand the nature of his offence.

4430. Two pounds seems to be the highest fine inflicted?—Yes.

4431. There was never any one brought twice before the Bench for supplying them with liquor?—No.

4432. A husband and wife appear to be summoned here?—They were not married then. They are both dead now. At the time of the cases when Hall and Morgan were summoned, they very often caused rows from some private feud amongst those two, and there is also a very bad feeling between the blacks and half-castes.

4433. The real blacks regard the half-castes as intruders?—They do.

4434. The half-castes look down upon the blacks?—No, I do not think so.

4435. Do not you think it is bad for the station to allow a lot of people to come and pick hops?—It is a matter of necessity; there is great caution used to keep them from mixing with the blacks, in fact they sometimes give them separate parts of the field to pick in.

4436. Have you any knowledge of how long it is since whites were required to pick hops?—One year Chinamen were taken there, a large number of Chinamen.

4437. The hops used to be picked without any necessity for white labor?—Not during my time.

4438. It is a bad thing to have the whites there?—It is; as the hop grounds are extending all the inferior class of laborers are coming, and it is undesirable.

The witness withdrew.

T. W. Doherty sworn and examined.

T. W. Doherty,
25th Nov. 1881.

4439. What firm do you represent?—Robertson and Moffatt.

4440. Will you give your opinion on these samples [*handing certain samples to the witness*]?—Not on wineys; I could not pass an opinion on those.

The witness withdrew.

James Wroe sworn and examined.

James Wroe,
25th Nov. 1881.

4441. What firm do you represent?—G. S. Brown and Co.

4442. Are you a judge of wineys?—I am.

4443. Will you look at these samples and examine them [*handing some samples to the witness*]?—[*The witness inspected the same*]. The price depends upon the width in nearly every case. This sample would be about 10½d. a yard.

4444. At what width?—About 28 inches. [*The price marked on the sample was 9½d.*]

4445. Supposing you were dealing with this stuff in a wholesale way, and only a dozen or 20 or 40 yards was required, would you charge anything more?—By taking a piece for a charitable institution we make a concession upon the ordinary retailing price. This sample—[*inspecting another*—is not so good. I should say there would be 2d. a yard difference between those two. [*The sample was marked 6½d.*]

4446. Is this class of goods dearer now than it used to be?—At certain seasons of the year they fluctuate with the markets; sometimes they are dearer than at others.

4447. You are speaking of the present price?—Yes. This—[*another sample*—is what we call Aberdeen winey. It contains wool twisted much tighter than the others. That I should put down to be worth, in the wide width, about 15d. or 16d. a yard.

4448. How many inches wide would that be?—What we call 30-inch width—[*sample marked 1s.*]. The scarlet wineys vary very much in width, but this, if of the medium width of 27 inches, would be 17d. a yard [*sample marked 1s. 3d.*].

4449. Do they not run broader than that?—Yes, 30 and 32 inches. If it is a yard wide it would be more money in proportion.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday next, at ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, 1ST DECEMBER 1881.

Present :

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair ;
 J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P., | T. Embling, Esq., M.D., J.P.,
 Mrs. Bon.

Honorable R. Richardson, M.L.A., sworn and examined.

4450. Do you know Coranderk station ?—Yes, I know Coranderk.

4451. Have you been there ?—Yes, I have.

4452. Often ?—Twice.

4453. How long ago is it since you first went there ?—I could not tell you ; it is some time ago since I was there on the first occasion. The last occasion, I think, was in December or January (I don't know which) of last year or this.

4454. Were you any length of time there ?—I had a look about the place.

4455. Saw the blacks ?—Some of them and some of the whites.

4456. In what condition did you find the blacks ?—To what do you refer ?

4457. Did they appear to be well fed ?—It was holiday time when I was there ; the number present was limited, especially of the male sex. I think, as far as I remember, they looked healthy—the men and the boys. I saw a number of the women and some of the children. Some of them seemed to be attending to their domestic duties, and, as I thought, were making the best of the circumstances in which they were ; but the circumstances in which they were were not very favorable.

4458. Will you describe those ?—The conveniences they had were very limited. Some of the huts were very bad. There were a few new huts that had been recently built, but the inside arrangements were not what they should be, in my opinion, to encourage cleanly and domestic habits. I think that was the impression left on my mind from looking at the huts. I went into several of the huts with Mr. Strickland. The place appeared to be very much a wreck. I went into the hop kiln and the buildings connected with it, and they appeared to be neglected, I think. In a portion of the hop kiln there were a quantity of potatoes ; whether they were refuse or not at this moment I cannot say ; but Mr. Strickland said they were kept there because it was a good place to keep them. My attention was particularly directed to the state of the buildings near the school and near Mr. Strickland's house—the kitchen—where I was informed they cooked, and I think I saw two portions of camp-ovens—remnants of camp-ovens. All the lower portion of the kitchen was all gone, and I am not sure whether there were two pigs or a pig and a calf, but the lower portion of the palling was broken off. There was a fireplace standing where they appeared to be doing cooking, but there was no cooking going on at the time I was there ; it was holiday time. I was there about, I think, nine o'clock in the morning, and Mr. Strickland was not up when I got there. I examined the store-house where the food was kept. There were two or three bags of potatoes in the store, some tea, and some sugar, and a number of other things usually kept there, and the place appeared to me to be quite unwholesome—the smell was musty ; it had that peculiarly unhealthy smell which always follows decomposed matter. At that season I suppose the potatoes were not so well kept as they would be at a cold time of the year. The ventilation was not good. I consider the place was in quite an unfit condition to keep the food of any person in.

4459. The potatoes were old ?—Yes. The tea and the sugar indicated that there was great carelessness in the way in which it was dealt out. It reminded me very much of when you have men and boys about a place, and a boy goes to get a feed of oats for a horse and he scatters them all about. It had that appearance. I examined the books and the roll in the school. I saw the teacher and had a conversation with him. I thought the children were not well taught. I had not an opportunity of judging what the capacity of the children was, but I was given to understand that the children could learn as well as children generally do ; but the conversation I had with the teacher convinced me that the school ought to be under the Education Department, and that there ought to be exacted from the school results in the same way as they are from schools outside. I saw some of the girls cleaning up the place—cleaning out the schoolroom. They appeared to be doing their work very well. I had some conversation with one apart from Mr. Strickland, and she expressed great dissatisfaction with the way in which they were treated, but the particulars have gone from me. I know it was an expression of dissatisfaction. The place presented a very dirty appearance generally.

4460. Did you find that dissatisfaction general ?—I had not an opportunity of conversing with any of them—only in Mr. Strickland's presence. I asked a number of questions and there was some hesitancy on the part of those I asked to give information before Mr. Strickland. On two occasions I asked two of the women—one had two children and another I think had three—one was a baby. Her husband was dead ; I forget the names. They complained of a want of convenience in their places, and a want of the necessary things to keep their houses right. I saw one elderly woman—when we went in she did not expect us and we caught her smoking—still she had a very clean tidy place so far as she had convenience to do it. Inside I remember just now that the place presented a very dirty appearance generally ; and, standing in those cottages, you commanded a view of nearly the whole of the water-closets all down the hill, at least a great number of them. They are built two and two together, double. Here is one standing here and another there [*describing the position*] in most cases. I do not remember a single case where the doors were on those closets—there may have been, but I do not think I saw one. The doors were both off, and persons sitting there could be seen from the cottages above. They could be conversing while they were sitting there. I made some inquiry as to a restriction as to whether boys and girls or men and women went to those places together or whether there was a water-closet where the women could go without the men seeing. I found there was no such restriction. I was very much impressed with the entire want of management, and felt that the management was only calculated to encourage indecencies of all kinds.

4461. And demoralization ?—Yes. There appeared to be no restriction whatever. The management appeared to be excessively bad. My visit was only a short visit, and what I have described is what came under my observation.

4462. Whether you were there a long or short time, the closets were there ?—Yes. I felt disgusted with the whole appearance of the place.

Honorable
 R. Richardson,
 M.L.A.,
 1st Dec. 1881.

Honorable
R. Richardson,
M.L.A.,
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4463. Were the hops growing?—Yes. I was in the hop garden too. They presented a very healthy appearance, and appeared as if they had been attended to. They were clean. I was also in Mr. Strickland's garden. That was well kept, and had vegetables in it. I made some inquiry about how the food was distributed. One man (I think it was only one man I spoke to on that point) complained that the food was not sufficient for them, that they did not get animal food sufficient. With the exception of potatoes, I certainly saw nothing on the place that I would judge to be sufficient for the large number of inhabitants there. The vegetables growing were growing very well.

4464. Was there a good quantity of them?—No, the quantity was limited. It was just such a garden as you would have about your own place, without providing for anybody else.

4465. There was no public garden for vegetables—that was in Mr. Strickland's garden?—Yes. I think in connection with one or two of the huts I was shown where they had gardens. Mr. Strickland told me the blacks had an opportunity, if they would, of cultivating pieces of ground for themselves.

4466. Did he not tell you, if their time was taken up in cultivating gardens they would receive no wages to buy meat?—I think he did, but the exact particulars have gone from me. I asked him some questions about the wages—how they were paid—how they were kept—how the rations were served out—and he gave me some particulars.

4467. Whom do you consider is responsible for all this bad management?—Fixing the responsibility is a very difficult thing. Without fully going into that, I would hesitate to fix the responsibility unless I inquired into it, as the Board is inquiring into it, but I have no doubt the management is bad. I should consider the Board is responsible for the bad management; still, although I do not know what Mr. Strickland's duties were, I thought I would see that the place was better managed, or I would not be there.

4468. Do you know what instructions he gets?—No.

4469. Did you notice that too many were huddled up together in one sleeping apartment?—The sleeping apartments in all cases were bad. The blacks themselves complained of that.

4470. Did Mr. Strickland tell you what his duties were defined to be?—No, he appeared to be anxious not to tell. There were three of us present. At first Mr. Strickland was offensive. I did what I thought was a very natural thing for any person going to a place of that kind—I began to ask questions. Mr. Strickland was not up when we went there; I had a conversation with a man that appeared to be doing something on the farm. When Mr. Strickland came I told him that we were from Melbourne, and if he had no objections I desired to have a look about the place. He took us round. I began to ask questions—"Would not it be better to do so-and-so?" He appeared to think we belonged to the Press, and had come to make inquiries, the results of which might be made known to the public; and he said, if we came there to find fault in that way, we might please ourselves about it. It was said in a most offensive tone, until I explained to him that we were simply asking for information—that we would be glad to get it; it was a public matter, and had excited public attention and had excited our curiosity.

4471. You did not tell him who you were?—No.

4472. And if persons were continually going and asking questions, would you not think it rather peculiar?—I was always taught that civility was a cheap commodity.

4473. Did he learn before you left who you were?—The questions we asked were not offensively asked; they were only such questions as you could reasonably ask any man in a public capacity. They were only questions which any man should be prepared to answer, and answer with civility.

4474. You say you were going round—he must have lost some time going round with you?—If you go to a railway station and ask a porter a question and he answers uncivilly, you would report him; and Mr. Strickland was in the same position as any other public servant.

4475. Did he appear desirous not to give you any information?—He appeared determined not to give us any information.

4476. What objection did you find with the kiln?—The dilapidated condition.

4477. From what you saw of the place, were you induced to think there was any inspector over Mr. Strickland to look after the management?—I knew Captain Page, representing the Board, visited the place; I asked him that—he told me that. I judged that the interval that must necessarily take place between one visit and another must be so great that the inspection must be only casual, as it were.

4478. You simply found the place not well managed?—In my opinion.

4479. Did it appear to be managed without any regard to economy?—There appeared to be no system. My visit was not such that I could judge much of the economy, excepting in the matter of the kiln and the surroundings which were in a dilapidated condition, when a very little labor would have kept them together. The doors of the closets were all broken open and destroyed, when a hammer and a few nails would have kept them together.

4480. Did you observe that the children were without shoes and stockings?—I think some of the boys and girls were without shoes and stockings.

4481. Supposing Mr. Strickland had no instructions at all, would the condition of affairs then be what it is now?—It never struck me to look at it from that point. I could hardly conceive that Mr. Strickland could be there without instructions.

4482. Can you say from your own knowledge that the children were not possessed of shoes and stockings?—No, I could not say that.

4483. From what you saw of the children would not you think they would grow up into men and women?—They appeared to be as strong and healthy as ordinary children—indeed they appeared to be more robust than some of the children. I remarked it was a most extraordinary thing, that after they grew up they fell away and died off.

4484. Medical men have stated that the shoeless condition is the cause of that, that they contract complaints which settle on their chests?—I have seen children in my country going constantly without shoes and stockings and yet they grow up healthy.

4485. As an observer, do you think it would be advisable to encourage the half-castes to go out to service?—I think any of them, half-castes or blacks, that were fitted to go to service would be better in an ordinary family of the country than where they are with Mr. Strickland, or with the management as I saw it.

4486. With any management?—I think if they could be pushed off into society entirely, it would be an advantage to them.

4487. To make a living for themselves?—Yes, that is my opinion. The way I look at the Coranderk station and the natives there is this. Looking at it from my point I would hardly think it wise to isolate them from society, but they should have a place that would be a home for them, and when permitted to go out into society, there are various contingencies that would prevent them remaining there. They might wish to make a change, and it requires a great deal of self-reliance if they have not some place they can fall back upon. I have always thought that those places should be made a home for the blacks, and made attractive to them.

4488. Do you think it would be advisable to allow them to go when they liked and where they liked, and spend their earnings how they liked?—That is a matter of discipline. All discipline is the result of training. If you are to have the blacks of this country disciplined you must train them. What I saw that day showed me there was an utter absence of training. It was the utter absence of training. It was the absence of training that struck me. When I breed horses I train them for the work that I have to apply them to afterwards. That is the remark that I made when leaving the station. Those people are not cared for so much as the horses we use doing our ordinary work. They are not trained, and the whole of their lives must be spoiled for want of that training of themselves.

4489. Do you not think that it is of great importance that the half-castes should be educated with the notion that they must go out into the world, and make that a home for the blacks alone?—I think that they should be educated to see that it would be an advantage to them in every way not to continue an isolated people.

4490. Do you think it possible to carry out that discipline with a people who know that no white man has any power over them whatever?—That is hardly a matter of evidence. I think there might be control somewhere.

4491. Do you think the man being there could by kindness and firmness not bring them into discipline?—I think so. From the manner in which Mr. Strickland received us I think he is not the kind of man who would do that. It is only fair to say he showed there was no repugnance on his part to the black children. There was a little black child naked sitting on the doorstep, and he took the child up and fondled it. I think experience shows it requires peculiar tact for that position. From remarks that fell from Mr. Strickland I was inclined to think he went there as a clergyman only. In speaking of the hop gardens, I have seen most of the hop country in England, and have paid some attention to it, and not for the sake of finding fault, but in order that I might for my satisfaction compare the growing of hops in the country with the growing of hops in England, I asked him some questions. He said, "I leave all that for the farm manager." I was impressed with the idea that Mr. Strickland was there as a clergyman. I enquired how often they held worship—how many of them attended, and all that kind of thing.

4492. Did he tell you how many children had been baptised?—He did tell me, but I forget now. I know there had been a marriage a few weeks before I had been there. He told me about that ceremony. Perhaps it was those two statements that caused me to think he went there as a clergyman.

4493. The impression on your mind was that he simply went there as a clergyman?—That was the impression on my mind.

4494. Here is a list of forty-four unbaptised young people?—Their ages vary from two months to twenty-one years of age?—The details have escaped my memory.

4495. How many members has he prepared for the church?—I could not answer that. I did ask some questions about the particular form of worship.

4496. Does he belong to the Church of England?—I think he said so.

4497. The Church of England believes in infant baptism?—I believe so.

4498. Did you speak to the schoolmaster as well when you found the education bad?—I did. I asked him what his qualifications were. He said he was a duly-qualified teacher. I asked him if he had passed the examination. He said, "Yes." I made inquiries as to what examination. I said, "You have not a license to teach, or a certificate." He said, "No, he was examined by a clergyman," from which I inferred he must have been appointed before the passing of the Act.

4499. That is Mr. Deans?—Yes.

4500. *By Captain Page.*—Did Mr. Strickland ask you your names when you went there?—No.

4501. Do you think he would be justified in going about with strangers who refused to give their names?—You infer that we refused to give our names?

4502. That is what he told me?—That is not true. As a matter of fact when we went there Mr. Strickland was not out.

4503. Not out or not up?—I was informed he was not up, but my statement is he was not out. He gave a reason—there had been a party there the night before, and they had been very late going to bed. Without stating who we were, I asked Mr. Strickland if we could see round just as I have stated in my evidence, but Mr. Strickland did not ask me who we were then, but after we had been out and gone into the school and returned, and were in his garden, he then asked if we would enter our names in the book. We said "No." He asked us, two or three times, if we would enter our names in the visiting book, and without refusing or consenting we allowed it to pass. He asked me ultimately, after my two companions were outside, if I would enter my name. I said, "No," my friends were outside. They did not desire to do it, and I did not want to do it. He asked me then what was my name. I said it was a matter of no importance as to our names. It is not a question pertinent to the matter. We did not refuse because we were never asked.

4504. Are you aware the State School Inspector visits the school?—I was informed the State School Inspector had been there a long time before, and had made some record, but the books could not be found. They were with Captain Page, we were informed.

4505. Have you had any experience of half-caste girls going to service?—Yes.

4506. What was the result?—Excellent. I have an acquaintance with Mr. Parker, who had the black station at Mount Franklin. I think I could find you not only half-castes but blacks who were excellent servants, and conducted business on their own behalf very well. There was a man who had a farm there whom I used to buy hay from. He conducted business with great propriety—a considerable business. The names of the half-castes I could not give you, but I have a distinct recollection of their being engaged as servants and giving great satisfaction. My experience is not personal.

4507. How long were you on the station altogether?—I could not tell how long—perhaps an hour and a half, or perhaps a little more; I could not answer. I stayed at Healesville all night. I left Healesville about eight in the morning and returned to Healesville about half-past eleven.

Honorable
R. Richardson,
M.L.A.,
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4508. *By the Board.*—Do you think you express the views of your two friends as well as your own?—I could not answer for that. I should rather have them answer for themselves. I think I do.

4509. Did you talk about it afterwards?—Yes; I had a conversation with Mr. Vale about it this morning.

4510. You have had some tolerable knowledge of the blacks in the old days?—In the time of Mr. Parker; I was well acquainted with him, and sometimes attended at Mount Franklin when he conducted worship.

4511. You consider the blacks are not beyond the reach of being civilized?—I have known them quite equal to a Scotchman in conducting business.

4512. Do you think a station like that—so near to Melbourne—would be so well managed as a station further from town?—Whenever you get near a centre of population the temptation is increased in that ratio, but I should think that station is sufficiently far from any place to keep the blacks from all unreasonable temptations.

4513. Do you know the blacks bear a remarkably good average in comparison with the whites at Healesville. In one year there were nineteen whites and only two blacks summoned?—I had a conversation with a publican in Healesville, and a gentleman came to me while I was there who had some knowledge of me. He had been staying at Healesville three or four weeks. When he knew where I was going he began to discuss that question with me. He gave me to understand that the blacks would go to Healesville and would return without going near public-houses unless they were taken there by some of the white people.

4514. Did you enquire into the moral condition of the people?—I did; but the particular information I had is gone from me. This man I spoke of related to me some case that had been heard before a bench of magistrates some short time previous. I may say I made notes of all that took place, it did not occur to me to bring them or I could have refreshed my memory with them which would have given me the particulars you now ask.

4515. Supposing Mr. Strickland stated there has been no immorality for years past, is the impression on your mind in favor of that statement?—I remarked, after we left, that if there was not immorality, the circumstances surrounding the whole place had a tendency to induce it.

4516. Mr. Strickland referred to the fact that there was no illegitimate child born there?—There was one suspicious case that Mr. Strickland pointed out to me. There was one woman into whose house he took me—I saw the woman was pregnant, I asked him some questions and he told me her husband was dead. I made some inquiry as to how long the husband had been dead, and judging by the appearance of the woman, the child that she was then carrying could not have been her husband's; it was a suspicious case.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Banks was called in.

Robert Hicks sworn and examined.

Robert Hicks,
1st Dec. 1881.

4517. Are you a judge of these articles [*handing some samples to the witness*]?—Yes; but I may say I must decline to express an opinion upon any goods supplied by any firm in Melbourne. I understood I was called to give an opinion upon our contract with the Government. If you want any information upon that I shall be pleased to give it to you, but I do not want to pronounce an opinion upon these articles at all. This is the schedule of the prices at which we supply the different departments with goods [*producing the same*]. Years ago we supplied the aborigines under this contract. I have sent up samples of the different lines in this schedule which you can see and judge for yourselves.

4518. Can you inform us as to the usual course of supplying the departments—are they supplied by contract?—Yes, by annual contract; the samples are with the general storekeeper at the Treasury, and tenders are invited for the year's supply to those samples. We tender for those samples, and those are the prices accepted.

4519. Do you know anything about the prices for which Messrs. Banks Brothers supply the aboriginal stations?—I do not.

4520. The prices of the goods supplied by you are in that schedule?—Yes.

4521. The Government supply you with the samples?—They have samples and invite tenders publicly in the newspapers.

4522. So that the whole trade can tender?—Yes.

4523. Does the trade regard that as a fair system?—There is no question about it.

4524. Do you in any one instance, without fresh tendering, continue to supply those things for more than twelve months?—No, it ends on the 30th June.

4525. Did you find any difficulty, when you had the contract, in supplying Coranderrk?—Not the slightest.

4526. Do you think the trade is fairly dealt with by the contract system not being continued?—I could not say.

4527. How did you lose the contract?—We did not get the orders as usual, for what reason I do not know. That was when the new management came in.

4528. *By Captain Page.*—Were any complaints made about the clothing?—Not that I am aware of. We supply the gaols and lunatic asylums, and they give the clothes as hard wearing as the blacks.

4529. *By the Board.*—Are you in the habit of giving commission or discount?—No.

4530. *By Captain Page.*—Would this statement in the Twelfth Report of the Central Board be true:—"Both Mr. and Mrs. Spieseke are also of opinion that the slops sent up by the Board are inferior and dear, and that it would be a better plan to send up the different kinds of clothing in the piece, to be made up by the women on the station. We think a saving might be made by purchasing these slop materials from a wholesale Manchester warehouse rather than from a Collins street tradesman"?—That is their opinion; they may be right or wrong; but they are wrong about their being purchased from a Collins street tradesman, because it was under contract.

The Board.—Was Mr. Spieseke the only one who complained of the quality of the goods?

Captain Page.—I could not tell you just now.

The witness withdrew.

William Hitchcock sworn and examined.

W. Hitchcock,
1st Dec. 1881.

4531. What are you?—A softgoods broker.
4532. Living in Melbourne?—Yes.
4533. Are you a judge of all kinds of soft goods?—Yes; principally piece goods I have most to do with.

4534. What do you call this sample—[*handing the same to the witness*]?—Aberdeen wincey.
4535. Is it all one width?—Generally from 28 to 32 inches.
4536. Is that good material?—Very good material.
4537. What is the price of that 29½ or 30 inches wide?—Sold from the shop or the warehouse?
4538. Wholesale?—From the warehouse to the shop-keeper?
4539. To the Government?—That is about the same, I suppose, as a shop-keeper. Of course, if you buy two pieces you would pay more than if you bought a hundred pieces. I should think this would be worth from 14d. to 16d. a yard. It would not be all that color. You would have to see several colors to tell the value of the wincey throughout.—[*The sample was found to be marked 13¾d.*]

4540. What would that be in the shop?—The drapers generally put about from 25 to 30 per cent. on what they pay in the warehouse.

4541. What should be the price of that article—[*a scarlet shirting*]?—at 38 inches wide?—This is a pretty good one, worth about 2s. a yard at 38 inches wide.—[*Sample found to be marked 22¾d.*]

4542. What is the value of this sample—[*handing the same to the witness*]?—supposing it to be 30 inches wide?—It is a line not very much sold. I should think from 10d. to 1s. a yard. It would depend upon the color. It is a black wincey, which is very rarely used, except of a better quality than this. I should say about 10d. or 1s. a yard for this sample. If there was more of it to look at I could fix it better. If you bought it at 10d. you would get it cheap.—[*Sample marked 9½d.*]

4543. This—[*producing another sample*]?—is also 30 inches?—That is a much better wincey than the other. These winceys are sometimes sold at very different prices. I have sold one like this for 20d. a yard, and I have seen it sold as low as 15d.

4544. Speak of the present market?—I have not sold any of this lately—that cloth is cheap at anything between 12d. and 15d.; you could not get it made by any manufacturer in England under 1s.

4545. Is there any duty on that?—7½ per cent. on that. I say it is worth 15d. [*Sample marked 12½d.*]

4546. What is the price of these blankets [*handing a sample to the witness*]?—This is a 10-¼ blanket—this blanket would cost at home about 17d. a pound; there are seven pounds in a pair.

4547. What is it worth here?—The duty is 22 per cent.; it is worth about 16s. or 16s. 6d.; if it is sold very cheap it may be a little less. There is no exact price, it depends upon the state of the market and the quantity the man buys.

4548. What proportion of cotton is in it?—About one-third cotton.

4549. Not more?—Not more. [*The sample was marked 15s. 6d.*]

4550. What is the price of this sample [*handing a sample of flannel to the witness*]?—That is about 29 inches wide. I think it is worth about 1s. 6d. a yard. [*The sample was marked 1s. 6½d.*]

4551. *By Captain Page.*—Is that what you would call a flimsy article?—Not at all, it is a very good flannel.

4552. This is another flannel [*handing the same to the witness*] what is the price of that?—I think about 16d.

4553. Not as good as the other?—I do not think so.

4554. Is it made in this country?—No. [*The sample was marked 1s. 4d.*]

4555. What is this article?—This is serge worth about 1s. 9d. a yard at that width. [*The sample was marked 1s. 8½d.*]

4556. Here is some calico [*handing the same to the witness*]. What is the price of that?—About 6½d. to 7d. a yard. [*The sample is marked 6¾d.*]

4557. What is this moleskin worth?—About 1s. 9d. [*Sample marked 2s. 4d.*]

4558. What is this shirting worth [*handing a sample to the witness*]?—About 8d. a yard. [*Sample marked 7¾d.*]

4559. What is this sample worth—[*handing the same to the witness*]?—This is a blue-lined checked shirting, worth about 6d. a yard.—[*The sample was marked 8¼d.*]

4560. What is this?—Linen tick, worth about 1s. 2d.—[*The sample was marked 1s. 6½d.*]

4561. What is this sample?—Towelling huckaback, worth about 10d. a yard.—[*The sample was marked 9½d.*]

4562. What are these moleskin trousers worth—these are size 5—[*handing the same to the witness*]?—I think these are worth 6s. a pair.—[*Marked 7s.*]

4563. What is this shirt worth?—This is a special thing, made to order—I never saw a thing like that before. It is made of Baltic serge.

4564. You were here by Captain Page's request?—Yes.

The witness withdrew.

George Warman sworn and examined.

4565. What are you?—I am a warehouseman in the boot department of Messrs. Banks and Company. George Warman,
1st Dec. 1881.
4566. Do you remember Mrs. Bon bringing one of the aborigines to your establishment for boots?—I remember a lady and two aboriginals.

4567. How long ago?—I could hardly say.

4568. Can you say within a month?—I believe it was a good many months ago; I could not say the date.

4569. How do you remember that two blacks came?—We very seldom have blacks in the place.

4570. What did you sell them?—Some blucher boots.

4571. How many pairs?—A pair to each man.

4572. Would you know the men again?—No, I should not.

4573. Had they boots on when they came in?—I believe they had canvas shoes on.

4574. What condition were they in?—Very fair.

George Warman,
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4575. What is the price of your boots?—I could not say—we have them from 6s. 9d. to 8s. 6d.
4576. Of that description?—Of that description.
4577. Could you identify the lady?—No; they were brought down by Mr. Banks, and asked to be supplied with those boots.
4578. Was the black a small man or a large man?—To the best of my belief they were two tall men.
4579. You are quite sure there were two?—To the best of my belief there were two.
4580. Did they put the boots on and go out with them?—They tried them on first, and I did them up in a parcel, and they went away with them.
4581. There was only one man supplied with boots?—There were two pairs.
4582. How can you remember that, if you do not remember their faces?—I have a great number of people in during the year; I cannot remember every face that comes into the place. I could not tell you, unless I turned up the date. Mr. Banks said it was a donation account, and it would be all right, or else it is not usual to let the goods go out without entering.
4583. Is there any record kept?—I suppose it would be entered to the donation account.
4584. Is it your business to put it down?—I make out the docket and take it to the entering room.
4585. You do not keep the book yourself?—No, only when it is a large account—when they get dozens of pairs.

The witness withdrew.

Mr. Banks read a memo. from an employé of the firm, stating there were two men, but only one had a pair of boots given to him.

William Simpson sworn and examined.

W. Simpson,
1st Dec. 1881.

4586. What are you?—A furniture dealer.
4587. Where?—153 Swanston street.
4588. We are inquiring into the condition of the aborigines at Coranderrk; do you know anything about it?—I do not think the Government treat them exactly right; I think we ought to treat them a little better than we do.
4589. Do you know how they are treated?—I do not; I do not think they are well treated.
4590. Have you been to Coranderrk?—No, never.
4591. Do you know anything at all about the blacks?—I saw them going to Brighton barefooted.
4592. How many were there?—A number of children and women and grown-up men.
4593. Do you know where they came from?—I believe they came from Coranderrk.
4594. Did you ask them?—I asked the person who was conducting them; he said they came from Coranderrk.
4595. Where was he taking them?—To the sea-side.
Captain Page stated that those people came from New South Wales.
4596. Have you had any business relations with the blacks?—When I was managing for H. P. Harris, Mrs. Bon came there on two occasions with blacks and purchased, as well as I can remember, a deal-topped table, a safe, and four American chairs. There was another purchase previous to that, but I cannot remember the amount of the purchase nor the exact quality of the goods, but they were common goods.
4597. Where were those for?—I believe for Coranderrk.
4598. Who brought them?—Mrs. Bon was with one of the aboriginals at the time.
4599. Did they pay for it?—Yes.
4600. Did they tell you how they got the money?—They said they worked for it, and saved it.
4601. Was it at Coranderrk or on stations?—They did not say where they worked.
4602. That is all the dealing you have had with them?—That is all. That is all I know about them.
4603. From what you saw of them did you think they were men likely to sell the clothes off their backs for grog?—Not the men I saw.
4604. Was it likely they would lay out the money on furniture if they were so fond of grog?—I should not think it probable.
4605. Were they well dressed?—I never saw an aboriginal well dressed.
4606. Do you not think it is praiseworthy of them to lay out money to improve their dwellings?—I thought it was very good of them. I thought they were getting a little civilized.

The witness withdrew.

John Rigby Norris sworn and examined.

John R. Norris,
1st Dec. 1881.

4607. What are you?—A fruitgrower and gardener.
4608. Where?—At Boroondara.
4609. Do you know anything about the aborigines of Coranderrk?—In March last they came down in a body past my place. I was somewhat surprised to see such a number of them coming down. I went out and spoke to them as to why they were coming down. I asked the chief man, whom I had known for many years, what was the matter. He did not tell me for some time. He said, "Nothing," at first. "Yes," I said, "there is something up, I am certain." After a bit he pointed out one of the other blacks, who would be able to tell me. He made use of the remark, "Me too much bonglally." When this other black, whom I called over, came up, he told him to tell me what was the matter. So I gathered from his statement that they had started away from the station, with a view of coming down to see Mr. Berry, in order to lay some complaints that they had before him. Upon further inquiry I found that they had made no arrangements for this interview with Mr. Berry. They did not know whether they would be able to have an opportunity of seeing him or not. I asked them where they were going to stop that night, and they told me they were going into Kew, if I remember rightly. I think it was to Mrs. Bon's they said they were going. Considering that they had no arrangements made, and also that they were likely to have their journey for nothing, that is, they were virtually on a wild-geese chase, I thought I would make it my business to come in and see if I could get an interview for them with Mr. Berry. I came in that afternoon, and just caught Mr. Berry before he left the Treasury, and sent in a message to him. After a short

time the orderly came out with a reply, that Mr. Berry would receive them the next day, any time after ten o'clock. The next morning I came in, and got some Members of Parliament to introduce them, as I could make no arrangement the night before. The blacks were introduced that forenoon.

John R. Norris,
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4610. By whom?—Mr. Zox, Mr. Deakin, and Mr. Graves, I think, or Mr. Dow.

4611. Were you present?—Yes.

4612. Was it Mr. Graves or Mr. Dow?—I really do not remember which—I think it was Mr. Graves. During the interview, the case was laid before Mr. Berry. Their chief complaint appeared to be that they did not want to be removed from the station, and they wanted to get Mr. Green, their late manager, back again. They also wanted to have some more control over the station themselves with a view to make it more self-supporting than it was at present. Having heard the statements of the Board, in reply, Mr. Berry pointed out to the Board that his hands were virtually tied.

4613. Were the Board present?—Yes.

4614. How many members?—Two or three I think; two at any rate, and I think the general superintendent, Captain Page. He told them his hands were tied, but, at the same time, promised distinctly that the blacks should not be moved—he said “I will give you that promise, you shall not be removed.” With reference to the Board, he told them he would have rectified their complaint long ago had it not been for the Board tying his hands. With reference to the other request about getting more control over the station, he could not do anything.

4615. To be sole managers themselves?—Not exactly sole managers. They thought they could work the station so as to make it self-supporting under proper management and direction. I ought to state that they told me, at the first outset, that the management was “no good,” that the station was not properly managed at all, they thought they could manage it better themselves than under the present management. That, I presume, was their object in wanting to get Mr. Green back.

4616. What did Mr. Berry say in reference to getting Mr. Green back?—Mr. Berry asked them the reason why Mr. Green was dismissed, and the Board replied that he was not dismissed, he resigned. He then asked why he resigned, and they stated that in drawing up the conditions of his engagement, they had imposed one condition which he could not or would not comply with, he thereupon resigned. Mr. Berry said, “In that case you had no complaint against Mr. Green, only that he did not comply with this condition,” they replied that was all.

4617. Had you any reason to suppose that they were prompted by any person to seek an interview with Mr. Berry?—No; my own impression was that they had started away from the station without ever saying a word to any one; in fact they were charged with running away from the station.

4618. Had they written to any one in Melbourne to say they were coming?—If I had thought that I would have thought it superfluous on my part to seek to get an interview for them.

4619. Had they any provision?—None. From what I could understand, they had nothing to eat from the time they left the station, just after the dinner-time on Sunday, until the Monday afternoon.

4620. Did you give them anything to eat?—Not exactly food—we gave them a lot of grapes.

4621. They told you they had had nothing to eat during that time?—Yes; I do not know from my own knowledge.

4622. Do you know where they were sheltered at night?—They camped out at Brushy Creek on the Sunday night, and walked down the next day. They remained at Mrs. Bon's that night.

4623. Did you know who Mrs. Bon was when they told you they were going to her?—I did not know there was such a person in Kew before; I had never heard of her before.

4624. Did you see them at Mrs. Bon's that night?—I called there on my way to town, and again that night as I came home.

4625. How were you received when you went to Mrs. Bon's?—Not in the best of manners; she seemed to be under the impression that I was going to take the blacks away to give them drink. I told her what I was about, and she seemed somewhat glad that she was deceived. I called there for the purpose of warning them against that very thing—to tell them to stop inside and not be led out by anyone to get drunk. I told them, if there was to be any success for their complaint, their chief care must be to keep sober. Mrs. Bon was quite taken by surprise at their appearance, not expecting them.

4626. We want to know what view you took of their condition; were they well fed and well clothed—had they shoes on?—I presume they put on the best clothes they could get to come down to town. I found afterwards that this clothing was the result of their own earnings.

4627. They told you that?—Yes; that question came up before Mr. Berry. There were only two who had Government clothing on.

4628. How many were there?—Twenty.

4629. And only two had Government clothing on?—Yes.

4630. Had they all shoes on?—So far as I could see they had. I saw that some of them were carrying their shoes.

4631. Did they seem as if they had been well fed?—They looked pretty well, I should think, from their appearance. I set that down to the same cause as their getting their clothing—viz., their own earnings. They are in the habit, I believe, of going out to work.

4632. I suppose you are not aware that provisions are served out to those blacks every week?—I know nothing of what is done at the station. I never visited the station.

4633. Did you see them on their return?—After the deputation, I got a free pass for them to the Exhibition. I had to promise Captain Page to return them to Mrs. Bon that evening, so that he could pick them up next morning in the coach. He wanted to take them back that evening, to which I demurred, saying they wanted something to eat. I gave them their dinner in the Exhibition—I got the money from Captain Page for it.

4634. Was he with you at the Exhibition?—No; I took them there myself, he gave me the money at the Treasury door here, on condition that I saw the blacks to Mrs. Bon's that night.

4635. When you proposed taking them to the Exhibition you asked for money for their dinner?—I told him if he would give them a dinner, I would take them there and see them safe back to Mrs. Bon's that night.

4636. How much did he give you?—One shilling each—he gave me a sovereign.

4637. How did they get into the Exhibition?—I had a free pass. Mr. Hill, the under-secretary, desired Captain Espinasse to admit them.

John R. Norris,
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4638. It was Captain Page's proposition to send them home immediately after the interview with Mr. Berry terminated?—He told me Mr. Berry had instructed him to get a coach and take them up at once.
4639. Without getting anything to eat?—I presume so. I said, "You will hardly drive them 40 miles without giving them anything to eat." He then gave me a sovereign on condition I promised to see them safe back to Mrs. Bon's.

4640. Which you did?—I did, with the view of keeping them out of temptation.

4641. *By Captain Page.*—Did you succeed in keeping them out of temptation?—I did. I permitted two of them to go to the barracks to see two of their friends on condition that they came home to Mrs. Bon's.

4642. You did not hear of them lying drunk on Mrs. Bon's verandah?—I do not know anything that transpired at Mrs. Bon's. I brought them there and left them there. They were quite sober when I left.

[*Mrs. Bon denied that any of the blacks were drunk at her place.*]

4643. *By the Board.*—You did not see those two you gave permission to go that night?—No, not that night.

4644. Did you see them again next day?—No. I do not know what day they went up, but I did not see any of them except the chief. He has called once or twice since at my place.

4645. Did you not see them go up by the coach next morning?—I was away from home at market. So far as I could gather from their general conversation amongst themselves and to me—the few remarks they did make upon the subject—they did not think the station would be any good while the present Board was in existence, as there was a sort of impediment to its progress. That was the impression I received.

The witness withdrew.

Christian Ogilvie sworn and examined.

Christian Ogilvie,
1st Dec. 1881.

4646. What are you?—I am what is usually called a gentleman now.

4647. Do you know Coranderk?—I did. I have not been there for nearly five years, with the exception of the other day.

4648. Have you been managing the aborigines under the Central Board?—Yes; I was secretary and inspector for the Board up to May or June 1876.

4649. How long were you inspector and secretary?—I think about two years.

4650. Have you been a portion of that time residing at Coranderk?—Yes.

4651. Did you visit Coranderk recently?—Yes, within the last fortnight.

4652. Did you go over the place and inspect it?—I just looked at the buildings.

4653. Did you see the blacks?—Yes.

4654. All?—Yes. I suppose I saw the whole lot.

4655. What condition were the Coranderk blacks in when you were superintendent—were they well looked after?—Yes, certainly.

4656. Well fed?—Yes.

4657. And well clothed?—Yes.

4658. Were they complaining at all?—Yes.

4659. Always complaining?—It seems to be a chronic state with them.

4660. Do you think they have reason for complaining?—No.

4661. Do you think they were getting ample food?—Yes.

4662. Did you provide them with meat while inspector of the place?—Yes.

4663. They were not allowed to deal with the butchers?—They could if they chose.

4664. It was not the practice?—No.

4665. Were they complaining of the amount of food you allotted them?—No, I have no recollection of it.

4666. Did they run out of rations before the end of the week?—I dare say it was the case, but I am speaking of several years ago. If they chose to apply they could get more.

4667. Even if they wasted a lot of their food and complained, would you give it to them?—Most decidedly not.

4668. How could you ascertain if they took proper care?—If we become cognisant of waste, of course we would not give them any more.

4669. You observed their appearance the other day when you were up; do they look as well fed now as they did during your time?—Yes.

4670. Are they as well clothed now as then?—Yes.

4671. Are the dwellings as good now as then?—Better.

4672. Is it your opinion that they are more comfortable now than they were six or seven years ago?—Mine was only a cursory walk through; but, as far as I could see, I should say yes.

4673. Did you converse with them the other day?—Nothing more than that they seemed glad to see me and shook hands.

4674. Had they an opportunity of complaining and telling you their grievances?—Yes.

4675. Did they make any?—No.

4676. They did not state they were dissatisfied with the management?—No.

4677. You say it is chronic with the aborigines at Coranderk to be grumbling?—Yes.

4678. If they did not complain the other day, they may have given it up as far as you know?—I do not see the good of their complaining to me.

4679. We have had strangers who visited only once, and who said they had complained to them?—As long as there are people who listen to blacks' complaints I think it is very natural, with such a race of people, that they will complain. We have them complaining to the Chief Secretary, then to Members of Parliament, then to the Press, then to clergymen, and now to somebody else.

4680. Are you aware they were encouraged to complain when you were inspector?—Yes, I should say generally they were, by irresponsible people.

4681. Do you know who they were?—Nearly everybody—I cannot remember names. I should be inclined to think, Mr. Cameron, you were one; the Chief Secretary, Mr. Macpherson, was another.

4682. Do you think that that interfered with the management of the station?—Wherever one man has the looking after a number of men, there must be introduced discipline; let it be as mild as you like, but it must be there. If irresponsible people interfere with that discipline, it must break down.

4683. In that case you think that any complaints they might have ought to go through the head of the establishment to head-quarters?—Certainly, I think that we are all apt to err. The manager at Coranderrk may do something wrong, of course they should have the right of petition, but it should go through his hands to the Board.

4684. Have they ever made complaints to you or asked you to send their complaints to head-quarters?—No; they had a more direct way of doing it—they went to the Chief Secretary. There was hop-farmer Burgess had been, ever since his appointment, promised a house on the ground, and I induced the Board to let me build one for him and I built him one. It is where Mr. and Mrs. Deans live now. Because I chose to put it there they made a complaint of it. I thought it the most eligible site, as the man could overlook the hop ground. The blacks complained to the Chief Secretary, and he went up to inspect the thing for himself and left me behind in Melbourne. I do not call that discipline.

4685. Who was that?—Mr. Macpherson.

4686. Did he object to the site?—Yes; he made some sort of objection.

4687. It was intended for the overseer?—Yes.

4688. And it was turned into a residence for the schoolmaster?—Yes; when Mr. Burgess left. Before that they used to live in the school-house.

4689. During your time as inspector—you resided there a considerable time?—About three months.

4690. How did they work during that time that you were there?—Well enough for blacks; I had no trouble with them.

4691. They were under fair discipline?—The word "discipline" does not apply at all to the management of the blacks.

4692. If you saw them idling about and asked them to go to work would they have refused?—No; I cannot remember an instance of actual refusing.

4693. Did you find them useful in looking after the stock. Were they good stockriders?—They always got a beast in when it was wanted for killing.

4694. Do you think one of the blacks or half-castes would act as well as a white man?—They could be made to do so.

4695. Have you had any experience of working blacks on private stations?—Yes; for over forty years.

4696. Did you find them good stockriders?—Very good.

4697. Are they better than white men as stockriders?—Quite as good riders.

4698. Do they use the same judgment?—As mere working men; but you would not trust a herd of cattle to a black as you would to a white man.

4699. Supposing you were manager of Coranderrk, would you as soon use one of them as stockrider as you would employ a white?—No.

4700. Why?—I should think he would be open to more temptations than a white man from the people in the neighborhood.

4701. Do you think it would be advisable to hire those out to service who wish to go out and earn their own living?—Yes, as far as the half-castes are concerned.

4702. Why not the blacks?—The pure aborigines have a claim upon us which I do not think the half-castes have.

4703. Supposing you found the real blacks as intelligent and able to look after themselves amongst the whites, would it not be as advantageous to them as to the half-castes to go out?—I do not think it is the case that they are, with the exception of Mr. Punch.

4704. Would you encourage the half-caste girls to go out too?—I think I said or wrote something about that before I left. I cannot remember what I recommended just now; but if you could get responsible people, I think the half-caste girls ought to be given into their charge, because you see, by keeping the half-castes there you are lowering them down to the aboriginal platform, instead of raising them in the scale of civilization.

4705. And perpetuating a race of paupers as well?—Yes.

4706. "I think, therefore, that a system of decentralization should now be gradually introduced on all the stations—by which I mean that the adults should be encouraged, under certain restrictions, to leave the stations in search of work, and that it should be compulsory on the youth of both sexes that they should be apprenticed to responsible masters and mistresses immediately after their education was completed, the stations never being closed against any in periods of sickness or distress, nor to the young when wishing to visit their parents or friends during the holidays."—Is that what you wrote?—Yes.

4707. You think it is not advisable to encourage the half-castes and quadroons to remain on the station?—No.

4708. Before the Royal Commission you gave it as your opinion that Coranderrk was the worst managed of all the stations—is that your opinion still?—Yes.

4709. You also stated before the Commission that your opinion was they were not immoral?—Yes.

4710. You still hold that opinion?—Yes. I think, with reference to your question about Coranderrk being the worst managed station, I should be allowed to explain. There are six stations, of which Coranderrk is one. All the other stations there is little or no trouble with. Coranderrk is the only one there is any trouble with. The cause of that, I conceive, is the situation of Coranderrk.

4711. What do you mean by "the situation"?—Too close to Melbourne.

4712. Have you visited Framlingham?—Yes.

4713. Do you know how far it is from Warrnambool?—Thirteen or fourteen miles.

4714. That is a very happy station, is it not?—Yes. But Warrnambool is not Melbourne, and it appears to me there is not the same class of people about Warrnambool that there are about Melbourne.

4715. What salary did you get?—£400 a year.

4716. Were you general secretary and superintendent?—Yes; but I had nothing to do with the books—keeping the accounts. They were kept in the Mining Department.

4717. Then by secretaryship I suppose you mean keeping the minute-books and correspondence and seeing the supplies were sent?—Yes.

4718. Then you had to do the larger portion of the secretary's work?—I did not keep the accounts.

4719. Did you visit all the stations?—Yes.

4720. Did you go on one occasion with Mr. Curr?—Yes.

Christian Ogilvie,
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4721. Did he receive £210 for that journey?—I do not know what the amount was. The expenses were paid by the Board.

4722. Did you inspect Coranderrk on that occasion?—No.

4723. "Advance to Mr. Curr for travelling expenses £150." In the Report Mr. Curr makes a reference to Coranderrk:—"Under these circumstances we think it our duty to recommend that the first medical talent in the colony should be engaged to visit Coranderrk, so that a reliable report, more or less applicable to all the stations, may be before the Board, on what is the most important portion of the subject with which we are dealing"—so that you visited Coranderrk?—Coranderrk has always been visited. We started by the railway from Melbourne, took Mr. Curr's buggy, hired a pair of horses, and went right through the Mallee to Dimboola.

4724. Was it not your special visit inspecting?—Yes.

4725. You are the responsible party for the Report?—I am responsible for anything my name is signed to. Of course the money was merely for expenses. We received nothing.

4726. Is Mr. Curr a member of the Board?—Yes; but neither he nor I were paid for that work.

4727. You think the cause of nearly all the dissatisfaction is outside influence?—I cannot help coming to that conclusion, because there are six stations, and Coranderrk is the only one there is any trouble with. There must be some reason for it, and that is the only reason I can find for it.

4728. Do you not think it probable the continued and long talk about removing them from Coranderrk is the cause of their dissatisfaction?—Nothing will keep down their dissatisfaction as long as there are people to listen to their complaints.

4729. You are aware the Board has for years proposed to remove them?—No; there have been differences of opinion on the Board. In my letter, too, I say, "Do not remove them from Coranderrk."

4730. In the sixteenth and last Report Mr. Le Souef says, "The Board regrets that the Order in Council reserving Lake Tyers for the special use of the aborigines has been revoked, and, also, that it has not yet been able to carry out its plans with reference to the removal of the blacks from Coranderrk as recommended in last year's Report. It has, however, again brought the matter in a more extended form under the notice of the Honorable the Chief Secretary"—do you think the blacks are attached to Coranderrk?—I do.

4731. Do you think it would be an easy matter to remove them?—No.

4732. Do you remember making this statement before the Royal Commission in 1877 in answer to question No. 136, "My idea is, that if you attempt to remove the people from Coranderrk you would have to send up twenty or thirty police"?—Yes.

4733. You believe they are really attached to the place?—Yes.

4734. How did you manage to bring them there—how do you account for the sacrilege on their feelings when you brought them there?—It was not my doing.

4735. Their feelings were not thought of then?—That is only an expression of my own. If it had been left to me I would have left the blacks in a state of nature.

4736. Do you think it possible to make that station pay for itself?—Impossible. I think nobody could. I think, as Mr. Hagenauer says, if the Angel Gabriel came down he could not do it.

4737. Did the blacks own horses when you were there?—Two or three, I think.

4738. You mentioned in your evidence that the station was not fenced?—Yes.

4739. And that £1,000 had been voted?—Yes; something of that sort.

4740. And that, further than getting the money, the members of the Board had prevented the fencing going on?—I have no recollection of that.

4741. Question No. 65, "Would it not conduce to the profit of the station if the run were fenced, and the cattle all secured for the station?—No doubt. Parliament voted £1,000, part of which was to be spent on that; but then one of the members of the Royal Commission made a to-do, and the money is lying in abeyance now"?—Not the Board—the Royal Commission.

4742. Was not that member of the Royal Commission also a member of the Board?—I do not know.

4743. Was not he present at that sitting?—I do not know; I know the Chief Justice was the head of the Commission.

4744. You would have some little regard for the love they have for the place?—Not now. Five years ago I wrote that way, but this state of disorganization has lasted five years. When I wrote what was in my last letter there was a little hope that, after the Royal Commission, things would be quieted down, but things are in the same state now.

4745. You wrote that in a gentler mood?—No; but five years have elapsed since. I hoped that something would come out of the Royal Commission.

4746. Have any of the recommendations made by the Royal Commission been carried into effect?—As soon as I got clear of the Royal Commission I went up country and managed cattle and horses, and I know nothing of what was done.

4747. What would you recommend now?—That Coranderrk must be broken up; it must be broken up at some time, I am certain. The objection is, that they must be provided for somewhere. They have become such a disobedient race now that it would damage the other stations to take them in.

4748. Do you think it is a healthy site?—It is not everything it should be.

4749. Were there hops growing when you were there?—Yes.

4750. What used you to pay them for picking—the same as the whites?—Yes, 3d. a bushel.

4751. The whites about Healesville that are employed all think it very hard that they should get 4d. a bushel and feed themselves while the blacks get 3d. a bushel and are fed by the station?—Speaking in the rough, one of those people on Coranderrk—an aborigine—is in a far better position than a white laborer. They get wages and are provided with rations and their families are provided with clothes. I forget what their wages amount to. They work if they choose to work; but it puts them in a very much better position than a white laborer is in, having to provide himself with everything except his rations.

4752. Have they not realised a large profit from the labor of the aborigines at hop picking?—No; I imagine the hop account comes to something like £1,500 or £1,700, and the station costs a great deal more than that.

4753. Do you still hold the opinion you gave before the Royal Commission, that, under judicious management and a good missionary, they might be quieted down?—I said I thought missionaries were

better on all the stations than secular people ; but you will remember you are examining me in 1881, and my thoughts have undergone a change since 1876.

Christian Ogilvie
continued,
1st Dec. 1881.

4754. Did you not always find them very docile when you were kind and firm with them—easily led?—No.

4755. Which of them was rebellious?—Punch.

4756. Did you find them truthful, as a rule?—About as much as white people are generally.

4757. Supposing you were taking their evidence, would you put as much reliance on their evidence as you would on white people's?—No, because the oath is not as binding on them as a white man. A white man knows the punishment that follows the breach of his oath.

4758. Touching upon Moravian missionaries, do you think Mr. Hagenauer would be able to manage Coranderrk now. It was the opinion of the Royal Commission that he was the best manager of the whole lot?—I do not think he would accept it.

4759. Do you think he could?—No one could do it.

4760. Is not Coranderrk the main station that the Board has charge of?—It is one of six.

4761. Are not the four other missionary stations under the different churches?—Yes.

4762. Are not the missionaries masters of the situations on their own stations—not under the Board in the administration of the station?—More or less, but not to the same extent as the manager of Framlingham or Coranderrk ; because the Board is this kind of body, that, if the missionaries do not please them, they can stop supplies.

4763. Do not the missionaries get supplies from certain churches?—I think so ; but the supplies are in the hands of the Board.

4764. When you were the practical head of the department, did not you consider you were free from responsibility regarding missionary stations?—No, I used to visit them the same as any other. If I have seen anything wrong I have made the same report as to Coranderrk.

4765. Would you have the same authority on the missionary stations?—No ; if the Board had disapproved of any missionary proceedings, they would have the power of stopping the supplies.

4766. *By Captain Page.*—If you saw a piece of fencing that you thought it was necessary to put up, would you not order the missionary to put it up?—Yes ; but, as a rule, it was the missionary who was anxious to put up the fencing and the Board to pay for it.

4767. *By the Board.*—Did you visit the stations every year?—Yes, three or four times.

4768. Did you report?—They used to come in the annual report.

4769. Those were the hints to the Board in drawing up the annual report?—Yes.

4770. But, besides those reports, you reported to the Board every meeting what you had done?—Every month I reported to the Board what I had done.

4771. How many at a time used to be present at the Board?—I do not know whether three or four.

4772. The same names almost always?—The same names almost always ; but practically it came to this, that everything went smoothly, and the secretary, in a great measure, was the Board.

4773. Were you very much afraid of Mr. Jennings' acuteness as a lawyer on the Board?—No ; he was never chairman in my time. He was a very good member of the Board.

4774. Mr. Godfrey was chairman for a portion of your time?—Yes.

4775. He was pretty sharp in looking after things?—Yes.

4776. Did you contract for the goods the same as they do now?—No, there was no contract.

4777. You used to buy them?—On that tour of Mr. Curr's and mine we had complaints made at the Dimboola station, and at Lake Condah, of the inferior nature of the slops which were sent up. I think the lady at Dimboola gave us samples of those kinds of things, and put the prices on them. She told us they were so inferior that she could buy them better and cheaper, I think she said, of the hawkers who came round the station. As the Board had told me, they held me responsible for laying out the money to the best advantage. I thought it best to take the contract from Messrs. Moubay and Lush and put it into the hands of Messrs. Banks Brothers ; first of all, because the goods were pronounced inferior, and, secondly, because I thought on the whole, for a man like myself, who did not know much about women's garments, it was best to deal with a wholesale house who had only one price, instead of a man who was wholesale and retail too, so I went to Banks Brothers. When I was residing up at Coranderrk, the man who supplied the tea, in sending up some tea to the station, sent so many pounds of tea up to me ; it did not amount to more than 3s. or 5s., and it looked very much like tipping me to that extent. I took the business away from him, and put it into Henty's hands. We were always well supplied by those two firms.

4778. Did you not purchase goods by samples?—No ; when I went to Banks Brothers I told them who we were—we would have the spending of about £2,000 a year. I insisted upon being treated as one of their best customers. I told Mr. Nihill I knew nothing about petticoats and things, but I should require a report of the price and suitability of those things.

4779. Before you went to Banks Brothers you got them by contract?—I had nothing to do with that.

4780. Is there any rule affecting the members of the Board that anyone absenting himself from a certain number of meetings shall cease to be a member?—Not that I am aware of.

4781. *By Captain Page.*—How are they appointed?—I think by the Chief Secretary.

4782. *By the Board.*—Did you carry out the regulations which required you to make an annual statement to the Government of the wants of the Board. The regulations state that you shall send in to the Government, in the third month of each year, a statement of the requirements of the stations?—I have no recollection of it. We used to send in an annual report.

4783. It was the regulation attached to the Act?—I have no recollection of it.

4784. *By Captain Page.*—Did not Mr. Andrews send in a great many papers?—Yes.

4785. All the accounts?—All the accounts he had to do with. I had nothing to do but countersign papers.

4786. The blacks are led to believe that nobody has any power over them, and the consequence is they will not do anything?—That recommendation of mine was five years ago. I withdraw that now, after five years' experience.

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned to Thursday next, at half-past nine o'clock.

THURSDAY, 8TH DECEMBER 1881.

Present:

E. H. CAMERON, Esq., M.L.A., in the Chair ;

Mrs. Bon,
Thos. Embling, Esq., M.D., J.P.,J. Kerr, Esq.,
J. C. Steel, Esq., J.P.

Edward M. Curr sworn and examined.

Edward M. Curr,
8th Dec. 1881.4787. *By the Board.*—What are you ?—Chief Inspector of Stock.

4788. Are you a member of the Central Board for the Protection of Aborigines ?—Yes.

4789. Have you been long a member of that Board ?—I think about seven years.

4790. Have you ever been to Coranderrk ?—Yes, two or three times.

4791. Recently ?—I think it must be a couple of years since I was there.

4792. How long is it since you were there first ?—On my first appointment, about seven years ago.

4793. What was your impression with reference to the management of Coranderrk seven years ago ?—I did not think it was good.

4794. Will you be kind enough to tell us how you thought it was not good ?—The work done seemed to be bad. Of course when I went there first I could not say anything about the management. I did not know how things had been before, but the aspect of the whole place was what I could speak about. I may say three of us went there together. We all thought the place exceedingly undesirable ; that it was impossible to do any good there. We reported that to the Board, and recommended that the station should be removed. We did that on the very first visit. We were all accustomed to blacks ; we had no doubt about what we recommended. I knew nothing about the antecedents of the place or even the name of the manager.

4795. You did not think it a suitable place for the blacks to be located in ?—No.

4796. Why ?—It is a well-known fact, all missionaries will tell you, that the first element of success in civilizing is to keep savages from the influence of white men, for if you do not they acquire all the vices of the white man. Our stations are well or ill managed in the ratio of their distance from civilization—in this our experience is the common one.

4797. Do you think that those blacks that you saw at Coranderrk seven years ago would be better anywhere else than about their native ground ?—Coranderrk is not their native ground.

4798. Not the Yarra tribe ?—Even they only went there in the summer time. They never lived in the mountains ; they went there occasionally. It is quite a mistaken idea to suppose that Coranderrk is the common residence of the natives now there ; it was no such thing. The tribe to which Coranderrk belonged died out nearly forty years ago.

4799. As a matter of fact it was the camping place ?—They did camp there occasionally. They camped at Western Port, and camped by Sugar Loaf Creek, and various places. It was not at any time the head-quarters of a tribe.

4800. Where would you recommend to send them to ?—That is a matter of arrangement, but, at the suggestion of the Board, I went to look for a place with the then secretary of the Board. We consulted the Surveyor-General about it, and we went down the Murray, and recommended a strip of country which is never likely to be thickly settled, which has good climate, plenty of fish, and is removed from disturbing causes.

4801. Would you think it desirable to send them away from Coranderrk against their own will ?—Anyone who knows the blacks knows their will is nothing, that they might have a serious objection now which they would not remember three months afterwards. I would suggest that they should be moved for their own benefit. I would not leave them to acquire habits of drink under the mistaken philanthropy of not interfering with them. If I saw my child playing on the brink of a well I should remove the child even if he cried. I should remove the blacks from Coranderrk whether they liked it or not. I do not believe they have any strong objection.

4802. You think if they were removed they would be perfectly contented in a very short time ?—I have no doubt of it. They are an easy people to manage. I managed four times as many as there are at Coranderrk when I was nineteen years old. They are easy to manage provided they are let alone and not tampered with by ill-disposed persons.

4803. Do you know all the other stations ?—Yes, I have visited them all.

4804. Are there greater temptations at Coranderrk to obtain drink than at any other ?—Not to obtain drink, but there are other disadvantages at Coranderrk which are not elsewhere.

4805. What are they ?—There is a dismissed servant of the Board who resides there in the neighborhood, and keeps the station in hot water. I refer to Mr. Green. It has been the impression of the Board that Mr. Green has kept Coranderrk in a state of hot water for the last seven years.

4806. Have you any direct knowledge of that ?—No, I have not. The fact of a number of independent people getting into their heads the same idea is an argument that there is some cause for it, though it is not a very distinct one. Then the application to have Mr. Green back. I have no doubt Mr. Green has been plotting these seven years to keep us in hot water.

4807. Have you done anything to counteract that influence ?—We have tried every sort of management in view of counteracting the proceedings of Mr. Green. We were constantly annoyed with anonymous letters at one time, but a detective being sent up we received no more letters of the sort.

4808. Have you any knowledge of the present local management of the place ?—I have some knowledge of Mr. Strickland's management. I have been there since he was there.

4809. Do you think it is good ?—No, I think it is bad.

4810. Is that owing to the manager ?—Not altogether. Mr. Green and others have made management difficult, so we have tried various sorts of managers. We had Mr. Ogilvie, Mr. Halliday, Mr. Stahlö, and now Mr. Strickland, to try and get something done ; but though a man like Mr. Halliday was able to enforce discipline in the police force, he was not able to do it at Coranderrk, nor is it in the power of man to do it under the present state of things ; no man ever will succeed under the present circumstances. As regards Mr. Strickland, I may say I think Mr. Strickland has been less successful than the others. I should have proposed myself to the Board to replace him, but in view of the constant enquiries into the state of Coranderrk, from time to time, I felt that the time for action had not come. As far as I am concerned,

I should certainly object to the management of Mr. Strickland—not as being radically bad, but not being a success; and I feel it my duty to go on and achieve a success.

Edward M. Carr,
continued,
8th Dec. 1881.

4811. That infers that Coranderrk must be removed from there or Mr. Green?—Even if Mr. Green was not there I think it is an improper place; before we heard of Mr. Green I thought so and reported so.

4812. Owing to its sanitary conditions?—Yes, and its nearness to population. I once looked at the visitors' book, and I noticed there that in a very short space of time there had been forty distinct visits of pleasure parties.

4813. Are there not quite as many at Mr. Hagenauer's station?—Nothing like it.

4814. Have you a visitors' book at that place?—I enquired into the subject while I was there; whether there was a visitors' book or not I do not recollect.

4815. Mr. Hagenauer informs me that he is very glad to see visitors and he has a great many?—He complained to me that a vessel with visitors used to come there, and conduct took place constantly which required Mr. Hagenauer to report the matter to the Board.

4816. Are you aware that he objected to their going on Sunday?—He objected to their going on any day. I do not know whether they were confined to Sundays.

4817. Did not Mr. Hagenauer ask you to put up the notice-board?—I think he did.

4818. Are you clear in your memory that it was not because they went there on the Sunday?—The objection was not that the visits were on Sunday, but that there were too many visits, and that several of the visitors made insulting proposals to the native women. Mr. Hagenauer complained seriously of it to Mr. Le Souef and myself when we were at Ramayuk, and the opinion of the Board is that the vicinity will soon become more populous than is desirable for an aboriginal reserve.

4819. Are not the blacks exceedingly docile with kind firmness?—They are easily managed, under certain circumstances, for good or for evil.

4820. Mr. Halliday wrote a letter to the paper, in which he says he never knew a black to dispute an order he gave him or refuse to go on the instant and execute it; would your opinion be similar to that?—I cannot say what occurred with Mr. Halliday.

4821. Was not he a fairly efficient man there?—Yes, he was fairly. He lost interest in it very much; that was noticed by the Board that he did.

4822. Then you think the blacks should be removed from Coranderrk because the whites are corrupting them?—Yes.

4823. Then that would entail a succession of removals?—No, it need not be so, because the site which the Board recommended is never likely in all time to be a populous place.

4824. Did the Government ever apply to the Board for an opinion upon removing the blacks?—It is the business of the Board to furnish the Government with its opinion.

4825. In the Act there is not a word said about your apprising the Government about the removal of the blacks?—Nor is there in any Act which goes into particulars at all.

4826. You are aware that this reserve is a permanent reserve?—I suppose it is.

4827. You are aware they have been living there for nineteen or twenty years?—I do not know how long it is.

4828. If medical men gave you their opinion that it was a fairly healthy place, would you change your opinion?—I should not.

4829. Are the Coranderrk blacks different from any other blacks?—You are under an erroneous impression as to the Coranderrk blacks. They are the gatherings from twenty or thirty different tribes in Victoria. There are some blacks from the junction of the Murray and Goulburn for instance, and other distant places.

4830. I suppose the blacks have the common human affections to places—would not they form an attachment to a place?—No, I do not think so.

4831. Would you agree with Mr. Ogilvie, who stated that if it were attempted to remove them it would take twenty-five or thirty policemen to remove them?—I would undertake to remove them with two at any time.

4832. Would you think they could be managed at Coranderrk by kindness?—Several superintendents have tried to manage Coranderrk and failed. Mr. Stablé tried, failed, and has since been very successful at Condah station. This and what I have said before speaks for itself. Then several members of the Board, from straws in the air, have come to the conclusion independently that it is Mr. Green in the background in great measure who has all along kept Coranderrk in hot water.

4833. Has not the Board persistently for years endeavoured to get the people removed from Coranderrk?—Certainly not.

4834. Are you sure that yourself and Mr. Jennings and others have not written letters recommending their removal?—We did, but that is not the question you asked.

4835. Did you ever consult the blacks about the question?—No.

4836. Do you think that is fair?—Most decidedly for their good.

4837. Are they children?—They are.

4838. Are they not men?—No, they are children. They have no more self-reliance than children.

4839. If they offend against the law are they punished like children?—No, like men.

4840. Is that just?—I did not make the laws.

4841. Should they be judged in our courts of justice as men, and punished as men, if you say they are children?—They are children in some respects; but when they steal they know they are doing wrong.

4842. Do they ever steal?—They do; I have known numbers of sheep and cattle stolen. I am not speaking of Coranderrk.

4843. You are speaking of them in the bush?—When?

4844. When you spoke of their stealing sheep and cattle?—When I gave that instance I was.

4845. Do you consider it stealing when you first of all shoot down their game and they have nothing to live upon?—It requires a definite question to get a definite answer.

4846. As to the boy Phinnamore, did you hear of the boy being beaten with a strap and buckle?—I have heard something about it.

Edward M. Curr,
continued,
8th Dec. 1881.

4847. Did you hear he had been locked up in the room by the superintendent for the night?—If I did hear it I have forgotten it.

4848. Do you not think the Board should be advised of all those details?—No, I do not. I think the superintendent should be capable of exercising a wise discretion, and that the Board cannot enter into endless minutiae.

4849. Has the superintendent any authority to beat any person?—I do not know that the Board has given him any authority.

4850. You know the regulations under which you act?—I have read them; I do not know them by heart.

4851. Supposing this boy was beaten severely, would not the friends be justified in asking that the boy should be released from the room?—Yes, in asking, assuming that they asked in a proper way.

4852. If you had a son beaten and locked up, would you ask in a civil way?—If I thought the boy deserved it I should not ask at all; I should say, "Served him right."

4853. If you had not heard the merits of the case, would you not go and ask?—Certainly not. Before I put my son in the charge of anybody, I should have confidence in the treatment he would receive. I would not object to a proper chastisement, if he deserved it.

4854. Supposing this boy was not in charge of this person, but was merely living in the station?—The boys are in charge of Mr. Strickland.

4855. Would you think that a man simply asking for this lad should be summoned a couple of months afterwards to the Police Court for insubordination, having committed no other offence?—Assuming that a boy received treatment that his parent does not approve of, I do not think the parent should be summoned for insubordination for asking that the punishment might be remitted.

4856. Were you on the Board at the time Mr. Green was in office?—No, I was not.

4857. What are the duties of the inspector?—Whom do you mean by the inspector?

4858. The general inspector?—There is no officer known as general inspector. At present the general management is under Captain Page. We generally speak of him as secretary.

4859. What are his duties?—First of all there is the keeping of the books, managing the money matters, purchasing the supplies, seeing that they are of good quality and proper price, and that the money is laid out advantageously in that way; to inquire into cases of disaffection that arise on any station, either in respect to the people or the manager; in fact, he stands between all those stations and the Board, to put the Board in possession of any facts that seem to him sufficiently important to be brought under the notice of the Board. He can also order those people in an *ad interim* way until the Board can express an opinion.

4860. Does he visit the stations?—Only occasionally, as often as required.

4861. Is there no regulation on the subject?—No, he visits when he chooses.

4862. How many does he visit?—I think he visits all the half-dozen.

4863. Do you receive reports from him of his visits?—Whenever there is anything to report.

4864. Did Mr. Ogilvie send in any report?—I do not know whether he did or not, at all events we had him in the board-room, and obtained what information we wanted, and heard anything from him that he thought we ought to know.

4865. Those reports, I suppose, are to be laid before Parliament?—The annual report is.

4866. But the smaller matters inside?—There are some appendices to the report.

4867. I see that in every one of the reports, up till Captain Page's advent to office, the inspector sent formal reports to the Board of his visitation and the particulars of his visitation. I cannot find Captain Page's name in one?—I do not know whether Captain Page has reported in this way, nor do I think it of any consequence.

4868. Should not Parliament be informed by the inspector of the actual condition of affairs?—Parliament is informed by the Board every year of the state of affairs on each station.

4869. I think Appendix II., Thirteenth Report, contains the only mention of Captain Page—merely his name; but for that Captain Page does not exist in the knowledge of Parliament?—If you were to publish every trifle in every department who would read them?

4870. Do you not think Parliament ought to be seised of the opinion of the chief officer of the department?—The Board receives his opinion and Parliament receives his opinion through the Board, and I do not think anything further is necessary.

4871. It used to be done; if he visited four times a year, four reports were sent in?—If we went into that sort of thing it would require a blue book to report little bickerings at Coranderrk alone. No one would read them. Such details would be an abuse.

4872. I would call your attention to Appendix I. of the Tenth Report; this is the last report Mr. Green wrote. He says:—"The work done by the aborigines is pretty considerable, if we reckon what it would have cost to have done the same by white labor. £300 for clearing and trenching the ten acres of new land for hops; £160 for building hop-kiln and cooling-house; and £250 for cutting hop-poles; in all, £710; that is, including bullock labor. Those were the lowest sums I was asked for from white men to do the work, and the aborigines did the whole of the work, except about £55 worth, which was done by white labour." That is Mr. Green's statement; and Dr. Gibson, who visited the station, in the same annual report mentions, "In review of the whole I again congratulate your Board on the satisfactory state of the station." Then, in another report, he says, "I inspected the cottages and huts occupied by the blacks and found them clean and orderly, and many of them very comfortable. I also inspected the school-room and female dormitories attached; they are clean and in good order, including beds and bedding. The boys' dormitories are also in the same good order. In review of the whole, the station, both as to health and management, is in a very satisfactory condition." Then Mr. Mackenzie, in the annual report, says, "The condition of the aborigines from the foundation of the colony was never as prosperous as at the present time"?—What year was that?

4873. 1874. This is the last report which Mr. Green indited, and in the next annual report Mr. Macredie mentions the change made in the management of Coranderrk as beneficial. That is the only reference made to the removal of Mr. Green. Do you not think a matter like that should have special notice?—No; we do not notify the removal of any of our officers.

4874. Do you not think when an officer is charged with grievous neglect of duty, and has to retire, that should be known to Parliament?—I think it would be perfectly impossible for the public business of this country to be brought before Parliament in detail; Parliament can only know results.

4875. Is it not keeping Parliament thoroughly in the dark about the whole thing if they know nothing about the changes?—Certainly not. It is no effort to do anything; it is the usual course of things. Keeping Parliament in the dark would argue some decided step with a decided view in it, but those are little trifles that Parliament has no time to look to. The reports in your hand, I suppose, have never been read so attentively as by this Board.

4876. Do you consider it is a distinct Government department?—It is.

4877. Should not Parliament be seised of all the larger details?—No, because Parliament has said to the Board, "There is the money, and there are the blacks, there are the reserves, make the best of them." If we were to consult the Minister about everything that is done he would not attend to it.

4878. How many members are present as a rule at the Board?—They are marked down in our minutes. I should say, generally, about four on the average. I think only about six constitute the Board practically. There are, however, some other gentlemen on the Board who have not acted for years.

4879. Supposing those three or four gentlemen hand themselves over to the inspector—I may say Mr. Ogilvie stated that the Board and the inspector were really one?—It might perhaps have been said he was at one time. There is no foundation for such a saying now. Now all the business is determined on by the Board.

4880. How long do you sit?—Generally not less than two hours, from half-past two to half-past or half-past four.

4881. If Mr. Jennings and Mr. Ogilvie stated that the meetings were seldom more than an hour, would that be correct?—We are not perhaps looking at it from the same point of view. Some leave early, three, after the formal business is done. Mr. Jennings is one of them. Others stop later.

4882. Mr. Ogilvie mentioned that there were generally three gentlemen, seldom less, never more, and the same three gentlemen?—That is in times gone by. He knows nothing about what goes on now.

4883. Can you give the names of the gentlemen who most faithfully attend?—Mr. Jennings, Mr. Macredie, Mr. Le Souef, Mr. Shepherd, myself, and Mr. Anderson.

4884. Does Mr. Shepherd attend the meetings?—Not so much lately.

4885. I understood he had not attended for a long time?—I have seen him there not long ago, within the last week or ten days. Taking the five years throughout, he has been a regular attendant, though for the last six months he has been very seldom there.

4886. Does the Board dispense with written reports from the inspector?—They do not call upon him for a written report; but as to dispensing with them, that would argue that it was an established custom, which has not been the case.

4887. Up to the time of Captain Page they had been systematically sent in. Did you go round some of the stations with Mr. Ogilvie?—Yes. There is a report, which he and I addressed to the Board, which speaks for itself.

4888. What was the necessity for two of you to go?—It is usual for bodies to like the advice of more than one person. They think they are more likely to get extended views of things; that matters should be looked at from both sides of the question.

4889. Mr. Ogilvie was the general superintendent at that time?—I think he was.

4890. And received a salary?—Yes.

4891. Did you receive £200 for that trip?—I did not receive anything.

4892. Is this correct: "Advanced to Mr. Curr, for travelling expenses, £150"—"Advanced to Mr. Curr, £60 5s. 9d."?—I cannot remember the sums now. I have no doubt the minutest particle can be accounted for. There was nothing paid to Mr. Ogilvie or myself. The expenses of the trip were paid.

4893. Do you think it was fair to burden the Board with that amount of money, when you paid the officer who was competent to visit?—The buggy was the chief expense of the concern.

4894. Whoever got the money—that money was spent?—It was spent in defraying the expenses of the trip. I had no more right to go to the expense of making such a trip than you had.

4895. Do you think it fair that the Board should have gone to the extra cost, when they had an officer for the purpose?—Decidedly, I think so.

4896. You mention, as the net result, that you came across fifty-four blacks?—That was not the net result—there were other results besides that.

4897. What is the necessity of having a paid officer—could not two members of the Board go and visit just as well?—Yes; but there was not another member of the Board at liberty.

4898. Were you not competent to visit yourself?—You have stopped short; you have not taken the principal matter at all. We went to recommend to the Board a proper place to remove Coranderrk blacks, and perhaps other blacks, to.

4899. Do you not think it would have been a wiser plan to have obtained first the sanction of the Government to the proposal to remove them?—No; it is usual to go with a proposal cut and dried. What would have been the use of our going and saying, "We want to remove the blacks;" and then the Government saying, "Where will you remove them to?" and our saying, "We cannot find any place." The usual plan is to have the matter ready, and say "We want to remove the blacks to such a place."

4900. Do you think the persistent efforts to get them away might have excited the blacks, and made them discontented?—There have been no persistent efforts. We have recommended it several times. Any to hear you would think the Board had some personal object to gain. I deny that they have anything of the sort.

4901. Have the blacks not a particular objection to leaving?—I dare say they may have been talked into such a thing. I am sure they have not themselves. You (*Mrs. Bon*) wrote a letter, the other day, that caused great dissatisfaction, at Coranderrk; a very improper letter as I hear.

4902. Read it?—Mr. Strickland told me of it. I have not got it.

4903. Do you think the continual remarks made to the blacks, by people interested, mentioning that they were going to be driven out from Coranderrk, would be the cause of them objecting to leave the place?—Anyone representing in a provoking way that the blacks were to be compelled to leave would certainly stir up ill feeling on the subject. This has been systematically done. The Board and every member of it has most friendly feelings towards the blacks, and, on this account, thought it their duty to let the Government know how improper a place for an aboriginal reserve they thought Coranderrk to be. Some of you gentlemen seem to me to think the members of the Aboriginal Board find some advantage in the position, just the contrary is the fact. For myself I had no wish to be on the Board, and declined the

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appointment, but Mr. Ramsay asked me. He said, "I know you are conversant with the subject." He urged me to do it, and I accepted the appointment. I have always spoken the truth and done my duty. I should be glad to be relieved to-morrow. I would have resigned long ago the position, had it not been I saw those unfortunate fellows were going to fall into the hands of people who would not treat them well.

4904. Into whose hands were you afraid they would fall?—Mr. Green's.

4905. Are you aware of any immorality at Coranderrk?—Not personally aware of any.

4906. If the general evidence is to the contrary, are you prepared to believe they are very virtuous at Coranderrk?—I do not believe they are virtuous. I know of no acts to my own knowledge.

4907. In judgment and charity, without knowledge of facts, should not you conclude they are virtuous?—I say it will require very strong evidence to make me believe that they are virtuous.

4908. How does the Board proceed to appoint an inspector?—It is open to them to make an appointment in any way they like.

4909. What is the plan they adopt?—I could not tell whether they advertise or not. I think on one occasion Mr. Ogilvie saw Captain Standish about it.

4910. In the absence of competition, how are you to get the best man for the place?—I would not be sure of them if you had competition. Perhaps the most bashful and the most competent and the most painstaking man would be the least likely to make himself felt.

4911. Is it necessary that the superintendent should be an agriculturist; is that one of the conditions?—No, not absolutely necessary, because we have a man there who is supposed to take that business off his hands—Harris. There are a number of things; there is the religious business of the place; there is the agricultural business; there is the discipline. It is a mixed character that is required there; it is not very easy to get all.

4912. Do you approve of the management being divided between two or more persons?—No, I do not.

4913. Would you think the one person ought to be able to lecture to the blacks and superintend the agriculture?—He might have a foreman; I think the head man ought to have a general knowledge.

4914. Is that the case now?—I do not think Mr. Strickland has a general knowledge.

4915. The management is divided now between Mr. Strickland and Mr. Harris?—Mr. Strickland is supreme; Harris looks after the hops and Mr. Strickland looks after the discipline and Mr. Harris.

4916. Do you consider it advisable that Mr. Strickland should know thoroughly how to manage a farm?—I would not say he should know thoroughly how to manage a farm—it would be very desirable; and if he did there might be other matters in which he might have shortcomings. I think an all-round man is the best, especially a man who can and will enforce a proper discipline on the place, because the blacks can then be got to work; but if the manager is not a disciplinarian, things will go wrong.

4917. Mr. Strickland has no check on Harris if he knows nothing about agriculture?—No, not in agriculture.

4918. Who has a check on Harris?—The General Superintendent.

4919. Is he an agriculturist?—I do not know whether he is or not.

4920. Is there an agriculturist on the Board?—There is no great difficulty in learning the agriculture at Coranderrk. The Board thoroughly disagreed with the former manager Burgess. He tried to put it down our throats that you could plough between the lines of hops from north to south, but if you attempted to plough from east to west it would not answer. So we went down into the hop ground with Mr. Burgess. I said, "You seem to lose a great deal of time in having those hops hoed by hand-labor between the drills one way; why do you not plough them both ways?" He said, "It would not do." I said, "Why?" He said, "I never saw it done." I said, "Let us go down, spade in hand, and see with our own eyes." He said that if you went from east to west you would cut the roots. I said, "Why do you not cut the roots from north to south?" So we dug away with the spades, and I said, "Show me a single root that is cut," and he could not; and the Board directed that the hops should be ploughed both ways, which was a large saving. I instance this to show that a very moderate practice, by anybody who has been accustomed to country life, will very soon master what agriculture the Board has.

4921. Has that been done ever since?—Ever since; so far as I know.

4922. Are the results as satisfactory?—Quite.

4923. Is it as satisfactory now as at the beginning?—I believe so. I have never heard anything against it, except at the first, Burgess said something against it; but, on the whole, the principle was acknowledged to be a success.

4924. If Harris recommended any improvements, did the Board take notice of it?—They only communicate with Harris through the Superintendent; because, of course, he has the whole responsibility, and to do otherwise would have divided the thing at once. You would have overthrown Mr. Strickland's command.

4925. Then Mr. Strickland was only the medium?—No; he could also direct Harris.

4926. Have they any written advice about their duties—Captain Page, Mr. Strickland, or Mr. Harris—have they any distinct branches of duty assigned to them?—I do not know that there is any formal division of the thing, but there is just as much as takes place on any station.

4927. Mr. Harris said he could recommend anything agricultural to be done?—Certainly, he could recommend it, and most probably Mr. Strickland would take his advice, because he knows nothing about agriculture. Harris would require the sanction of the Board in anything of moment.

4928. Do you not think in managing a station of this kind, in order to secure discipline, the officers should have assigned special duty?—I do not think so. In every private establishment of the same size there are none of those formalities of which you speak. It is all very well in large establishments—in them that sort of thing becomes necessary—but I would give you a twelvemonth to draw out precise instructions which would not be very objectionable to Coranderrk, or any sheep station of such a size. You could not do it. If somebody falls sick, the whole thing is thrown out.

4929. Seeing this is a Government establishment, should not it be conducted on strict discipline principles?—You might conduct it on such strict discipline principles that you would do nothing but raise reports and never grow an ounce of hops.

4930. Have you any idea of what the cost of the blacks has been since the establishment of the Aboriginal Board, in 1861 or 1862?—I do not know; I suppose about £8,000 a year.

4931. Are you aware that the last five years the cost has been £48,000 and the first five years £31,000, and there were four times as many blacks in the first five years?—I think you are quite mistaken. Edward M. Curr, continued, 8th Dec. 1881.

4932. There were upwards of 2,000 or 3,000 twenty years ago?—First of all: the first census taken of the blacks in this colony was taken about five or six years ago, on a motion of mine at the Aboriginal Board. There was never a census taken prior to that. I know all about this subject.

4933. The numbers were entered in those reports carefully from year to year. With a population four times what they are now they only cost £31,000?—I deny your proposition that they were ever four times what they are now twenty years ago. You are quite in error.

4934. In 1861 we read there were 2,341?—Supposing you say 20,000, who can contradict you?

4935. They are the Board's own reports?—They are taken from Mr. Hayter's figures; there was no census.

4936. In 1877 it was proved there were 1,068 when the Royal Commission sat?—That is accurate.

4937. The population at present is estimated at 550 in Victoria?—Yes; it is estimated that there are on our stations 500, and it is estimated that there are another 500. I believe that there are about 1,000 blacks at present in Victoria. There are many on the Murray, whose country is on both sides of the river.

4938. Did not Messrs. Hagenauer and Kramer go out lately to obtain information?—Since I was out they did.

4939. How many blacks did they come across on their travels?—I do not know.

4940. They say only 168?—Yes.

4941. That would not bring it to 1,000?—No; still I believe it is something like that. Wherever Ogilvie and I went we heard that lots of blacks had been there; but, the shearing being over, they had gone to another place.

4942. Then they are not supported out of the money voted by the Parliament of Victoria—those of nomadic habits?—They are frequently at Swan Hill, where they do receive rations. When they are away of course they do not. I cannot tell you anything specific about the Swan Hill blacks.

4943. You say you were about two years ago at Coranderrk?—Something about that time.

4944. How did the condition of Coranderrk—with reference to the state of the blacks, the rations, and their appearance and clothing—compare with what they were on your first visit?—Everything was in good order. In comparison with when I first saw Coranderrk, there was a great improvement.

4945. Were there more buildings?—There were better buildings; there was a better garden; there was a larger hop ground; and the whole place seemed to be in better order than when I first went there.

4946. Did the general appearance of the place seem to be better?—It did.

4947. You meet in the old rooms at Temple Court?—We used to meet at the Mining Office; we meet at Temple Court now.

4948. The Board has met there for some years?—Five or six years, I think.

4949. In 1878 a mention is made of rent and furniture; how did you commence to pay rent?—To the best of my belief the room we meet in belongs to the Acclimatisation Society, and they thought we ought to bear a proportion of the rent.

4950. The rent and furniture is put down at £31 16s. 9d.; in 1878–9, the rent £24 13s.; in 1879–80, £14 5s. How is it there is such a difference in the charge?—I do not know. The chairman always signs the account and satisfies himself, as far as possible, that he is signing a correct account; but the other members do not concern themselves about it.

4951. Captain Page's real duty is chiefly as secretary?—That is the principal duty.

4952. And in 1877–8 there is an item for clerical assistance, £33 7s. 8d.; if his duty is that of secretary, how does he get clerical assistance?—I suppose the work was too much for him to do. I do not know.

4953. Do you know who the clerk is who does the extra work?—I believe young Mr. Le Souef.

4954. In 1878–9, £12 10s.; 1879–80, £25. The items appear so irregularly, I am putting this question because you do not require written reports of the Secretary's visits. He appears to have so little clerical work to do?—He has an immense deal of clerical work to do.

4955. You know the regulations respecting the stores?—No, I do not.

4956. The 10th regulation says, "In the third month of every year, or so soon after as practicable, the Board shall submit, for approval by the Governor, a statement showing in detail the quantities of the rations, clothes, medicines, live stock, and other things which they propose to distribute amongst or employ for the benefit of aborigines for the ensuing twelve months, and an estimate of the amount to be expended in the purchase and carriage thereof, and of the amount to be expended in salaries and wages, and travelling and other expenses for the like period." Is that carried out?—I suppose it is. As regards financial matters you appear to forget that our accounts are audited.

4957. I think you make a mistake. Those would not come under the Audit Commissioners. You have merely to send a statement to the Government of what you require?—That is done in every department.

4958. Do you know that things do go up periodically, at stated times in the year. That is the spirit of the clause. Are you aware that the carrier states that he conveys goods to Coranderrk sometimes fortnightly or monthly?—As I understand, the whole thing is that the Board send in a statement of those things they require, but they send provisions and other things when they are required. They send them when they get a good opportunity of sending them. They conduct the business in the same manner as if the place belonged to themselves. They look out too that the things are sent up in accordance with common sense—when the things are required—not at stated periods; nor have I heard that the Government required anything else. If they had, the Board would have remonstrated with the Government.

4959. This statement seems to show that the goods are sent up almost monthly, and sometimes by coach, which is very expensive. The 11th clause says, "Once in every year the Board shall submit to the Governor a statement for the past year, showing in detail the quantities of the several things distributed, and the quantity remaining on hand, and the amount of actual expenditure in salaries, wages, travelling and other expenses for the like period." So you see the spirit of the two clauses is annual?—It does not say that supplies shall be sent up annually, but an account rendered annually.

4960. What was Mr. Ogilvie's salary?—I think it was about £300 a year.

4961. Do you know what Captain Page's salary is?—I think it is £500 a year, but I am not certain.

4962. Mr. Ogilvie did not do the books?—I think he did a great deal of them, but not all.

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continued,
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4963. From 1876 to 1877 the sum of £500 is put down as having been spent during the fifteen months. There are only twelve months included; do you know anything about it?—No.

4964. You know Coranderrk produces largely—hops and other things?—It produces hops, but not much besides hops.

4965. The last four years show that the six stations produced £7,314 12s. 6½d., Coranderrk's share being £4,752 15s. 5d.; do you not think that a station producing such an amount of money is worth preserving?—The object of Coranderrk is not growing hops. There is no doubt it is the most productive station of the lot, both of hops and discontent.

4966. Who manages the commercial affairs there?—The secretary, under the direction of the Board.

4967. Is the produce put upon the market, or sold privately?—The Board is satisfied that the steps proposed by the secretary are advisable steps. Whether they are put up to auction or what they do, I could not tell; but we hear what is proposed, and, if satisfied, consent to it.

4968. Does the price you receive for the hops compare favorably with the price received for hops elsewhere?—We have received the highest price for hops in the colony.

4969. As a rule, in fact, the Board places its trust in the secretary?—As far as their lights go, they examine well into the proposals that are made by the secretary. It would be wrong to go away with the idea that he gives a perfunctory account of what he is doing, and the Board sign it and go away.

4970. Have you confidence in the present secretary?—Great confidence.

4971. In visiting Coranderrk were you in the habit of conversing with the blacks?—I did always converse with them.

4972. Did they complain much?—No; some of them were old acquaintances of mine. I know something of the language, and I was likely to hear of anything; knowing a little of those men's language, they are more inclined to become friendly.

4973. Did you find them contented?—I did; I considered them as contented a community as you would meet with anywhere.

4974. Do you consider them fairly truthful?—They are very weak that way. If they are let alone they are not a lying set in their natural state; but if you put any strain on them and they see what you want, they will say it. For instance, when Leichardt was lost, blacks in all parts of the country said they knew where Leichardt died.

4975. You think Mr. Ogilvie was correct in saying they are as truthful as the average Englishman or Scotchman?—I think in their natural state they are more truthful.

4976. Is it good management not to have the station fenced in?—I do not think it is. It is only fair to the Board to say we have constantly applied for a definite statement as to whether the blacks should be kept there or not. We have recommended their removal, and we have never had any definite reply to it. We have considered the advisability of not launching out into any expenditure until we knew what was to be done.

4977. Even if the blacks were removed, would the station be more valuable on account of the fencing?—No, I do not think so; because, if the blacks were removed, the station would be cut up. It would be cut up; it would not be sold in one block, so our fencing would go for nothing. There has always been that feeling. I cannot believe that this Board will recommend that they shall be kept there, where their degradation and misery is certainly secure. I think any one who knows the facts as I do will take the same view as the Aboriginal Board.

4978. Do you think it is good policy to allow the cattle to run over the country?—You cannot keep them from running about.

4979. To dispense with the stock-rider?—I do not think a stock-rider will do much good. The people of Healesville look upon it that they have a sort of right to it as a common. Our fences have been constantly cut down; they believe that they can use it; and this is one of the reasons why the people of Healesville would not like to see the blacks removed from there, because the station would be sold and this commonage would be lost to them; therefore they have a personal interest in it.

4980. Is not twenty years a long time to be kept in a state of suspense about fencing the land?—It is a long time. In the first visit I made there I think we remarked on the advisability of fencing it, but we were new members; we did not know that the fencing would be cut down perpetually as it was put up.

4981. Would it be chopped down with proper supervision?—It is chopped down.

4982. If it belonged to you or me it would not be?—We should have our remedy at court.

4983. Is it not the same with Coranderrk?—Government things are not like private affairs.

4984. I suppose those statements of articles sent to Coranderrk are overhauled by the Board before they go up?—The chairman has the responsibility of signing those things; but as for thoroughly overhauling, it is an immense business to go through all those accounts. I will undertake to say, if you took a fortnight, you would not get to the bottom of them.

4985. In the last three reports brandy and wine are in them which do not appear before?—I suppose they were recommended by the doctor; but full information about that can be obtained at the office.

4986. What do you think of it in a sanitary way?—I used to be more adverse to it than I am. I thought a great deal of the consumption that has been there came from local causes. Since then I have made enquiries on the subject, and I do not think it is so bad.

4987. Consumption at Coranderrk is not worse than on any other station?—I do not know that it is; it exists everywhere.

4988. Even among those who have never been at the station at all?—Of late years.

4989. As an old hand in the colony, do you not think the blacks require a great deal of meat?—In their natural state many of the tribes have hardly any meat, and it was never their principal food, from what I have heard them say. Before the small-pox decimated them here, they had a very small proportion of animal food. After the small-pox went away, they had a great deal of animal food.

4990. The small-pox broke out in Sydney?—Yes.

4991. Do they require a larger share of animal food if they have nothing else as a substitute in the shape of butter or cheese?—I should think a pound or a pound and a half of butcher's meat, with plenty of potatoes, would be a good diet for them.

4992. But in the absence of potatoes—they have not always them?—I do not think they require excessive meat; I do not think they consume more of it than white people do. It has not been found that a black man eats more meat than a white man when regularly fed.

4993. A white man is entitled to twelve pounds of meat a week?—I never heard of that.

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continued.
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[The shorthand writer read the evidence given by Harris at Coranderrk as to his interview with Mr. Curr and Captain Page at Temple Court.]

4994. By Captain Page.—Is that a correct statement?—Decidedly not. I said to Mr. Harris, angrily, that the Board expected different evidence from him, because they were perfectly well aware that he knew of a number of circumstances which gave quite a different cast to the matter about which he was talking which he never said anything about. As for the stamping of the foot and that, it is perfectly ridiculous. I never did anything of the sort. I spoke hotly to him; anything more is a misrepresentation. This paper I hold in my hand was taken down at the wish of the Board, if I remember rightly. I am under the impression that the Board asked me to see Mr. Harris with Captain Page. It appeared in the *Argus*, if I recollect right. We saw in the *Argus* that Harris had made certain answers to questions put to him by this Board. Captain Page pointed out to the Board that he had omitted to mention a number of things while giving evidence which affected the whole understanding of the case. It was proposed that Captain Page should put some questions to him, and that somebody should be present that there might be evidence. That was done. I volunteered to go there. Captain Page asked a number of questions, and Harris gave his answers, and I took them down. I read them to Harris, and said, "Is that correct, is that your meaning?" He said "Yes" in every case.

4995. By the Board.—Do you think it proper for Mr. Harris, or any one in charge of the Coranderrk station, to own land in the neighborhood, and have cattle, and breed?—No; I think it is very objectionable.

4996. Who allowed him to do this?—I do not know; I never heard of it till within the last fortnight.

4997. How long has he had it without the knowledge of the Board?—I do not know.

4998. Is not that very strange?—No; we do not know all about the private affairs of our servants.

4999. Ought not your inspector to have informed you of the fact?—He may not have known of it. To the best of my belief, I have been ignorant of it all the time; but these things do not take as much hold of the mind as your own affairs. One has not time to go into every little thing.

The witness withdrew.

John Green sworn and examined.

John Green,
8th Dec. 1881.

5000. You reside at Healesville?—Yes.

5001. How long have you been there in that neighborhood?—Over twenty years.

5002. You established the aboriginal station at Coranderrk?—Yes.

5003. How long ago?—Nineteen years about.

5004. How long were you managing Coranderrk?—Twelve years.

5005. How many acres are there for the use of the blacks?—At first there were 2,500, or thereabouts, ultimately there were 2,000 or more additional.

5006. When was the addition made?—About 1868 or 1869.

5007. Was it ever all fenced in?—No.

5008. Have you ever applied to the Government for means to fence it in?—To the Central Board—Yes.

5009. They never supplied you with sufficient money to do it?—No.

5010. Was it necessary to manage the station properly to have it fenced in?—It became necessary because there were so many strange cattle.

5011. It was not in the first instance?—No, we had abundance of grass.

5012. You had the whole of the east side of the Watts?—Yes, in conjunction with Mr. Nicholson, he had the run; but he never overstocked, we agreed never to overstock.

5013. It was after the establishment of Healesville it became necessary to fence in the run?—Yes.

5014. Have you been visiting Coranderrk lately?—No, only about four months ago; they sent for me to see a dying woman. I went there to pray with her.

5015. Did she die?—Yes.

5016. She had a hut of her own?—Yes.

5017. She died on the place?—I understand so; but I went to see her.

5018. Is that the only visit you have made to Coranderrk within the last five years?—No, I have gone occasionally to see sick people when they have sent for me.

5019. Have you taken any notice of how it was carried on?—No.

5020. You cannot speak of the present management?—No, not as far as the management is concerned.

5021. How do the blacks seem to be, compared with how they were seven or eight years ago?—In what way?

5022. Their condition and appearance?—They appear well enough, as far as I have seen.

5023. As well fed?—Yes.

5024. Do they seem as well clothed now as they were then?—Yes, as far as I have seen.

5025. When you managed the station did you give them meat, or had they to buy it themselves?—We killed the meat on the station. We bought cattle outside when we required more than we had on the station.

5026. Did you ever buy meat killed?—Never bought meat killed, always killed it on the station.

5027. Had you in any years sufficient cattle to keep the station going?—Yes; I think some years. The last year I was there I killed 48 head, so I presume I was pretty near. That would be the quantity we would consume.

5028. Did they fatten sufficiently to be good meat?—Yes, quite fat.

5029. All the year round?—Two or three months any winter they would not be very fat, but still fair.

5030. Did you ever try sheep?—No.

5031. Are the houses now as good as they were seven or eight years ago?—Outwardly they are superior, but for comfort I should say they are not so good, except the floors, because they are only lined about three or four feet. The house I was in was thoroughly draughty, the wind coming in through the boards above; otherwise the buildings appear to be very good.

John Green,
continued,
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5032. They are nearly all built with timber?—They seem to be new buildings since I was there. I have not been in every one of the buildings.
5033. Does the general appearance of the place compare favorably with what it was in your time?—I have not gone through the place, I could not pronounce an opinion upon that.
5034. When you were there, how did you pay the blacks when they worked?—Never gave them any money, except an order to any one to buy something from, and we never paid regular wages, unless I paid them for hop-picking; that was the only regular stated price that they got.
5035. What did you pay them for picking?—One penny a bushel.
5036. Were they contented with that?—Perfectly.
5037. Did you find them good workers?—Yes.
5038. You never had any reason to complain?—No, never.
5039. Did they do the fencing you had done on the station while you were there?—Nearly all of it.
5040. Did they provide poles for the hops and all that kind of thing?—The first year I cut with the aborigines 26,000 hop poles, the second year 16,000, also with the aborigines.
5041. Did you pay them anything extra?—Nothing.
5042. Did they seem content to work without pay?—Perfectly content.
5043. Had you always ample clothing to give them?—They bought clothes; I gave them orders upon hawkers, and they bought their clothes. I never got many Government clothes.
5044. You allowed them to buy them, themselves?—Yes, with the money which they earned upon the station, and the money they earned besides. They would go away sheep shearing, and the money they always placed in my hands, and I kept it for them, and when they asked for it, I asked what they were going to do with it. If it was something I thought they should not do, I reasoned with them. One year, I remember, the shearers realized £114 in one season, about six or seven weeks I suppose they were away.
5045. Did they make use of their earnings?—Yes, when I got hold of it.
5046. They handed it over to you?—Yes, it was generally sent to me direct by those who employed them; I made that stipulation.
5047. Did you keep a separate account of the money they earned?—Yes.
5048. That was apart altogether from the Board's transactions?—Yes, altogether.
5049. Did they ever complain that they did not get justice?—They would sometimes complain, but I would take the book there and sometimes spend a whole day explaining to them particulars.
5050. They are a little suspicious?—Yes, often. They complained sometimes that I was not giving them justice.
5051. Did you find them truthful as a rule?—Very.
5052. And honest?—And honest. I may tell you I was there for some eight or nine years before I had a lock on the store. I never missed a fig of tobacco out of the store until some strange aborigines came from Gippsland; I had some tea stolen out. I had a meeting. I said I was very sorry, but I would have to put a lock on the store. They pleaded with me not to put it on, and I left it for some time, but I missed some tobacco, and I put the lock on.
5053. You consider them more honest than truthful?—No; I always found them very truthful. The only woman that I had a difficulty with—I do not think she is at the station now; she is up at the Murray now—was a half-caste. She was given to lying and stealing. I brought her from the King Parrot Creek.
5054. Which of the two, the real blacks or the half-castes, did you find best to manage?—I never found any difference. That woman was brought up under different circumstances.
5055. Which did you find the best workers?—About the same; no difference. There were some splendid workers, both blacks and half-castes.
5056. Do you consider full blacks are as intelligent as the half-castes?—Undoubtedly.
5057. Mixing the blood does not improve the intelligence?—No.
5058. Do you think the real blacks are as able to cope with difficulties outside as the half-castes?—Yes; except that, generally speaking, the half-caste may have a little more chance, because the outside people do not look with such a pitying face as upon a full black; but, taking them as a whole, I think the full blacks would get on just as well.
5059. You think a white would prefer dealing with a half-caste to a full black?—Yes; it is the color.
5060. Did you supply them with furniture?—No.
5061. Or bedroom conveniences?—No; not from the Government.
5062. Did they buy their own blankets?—No; they got the blankets from the Government.
5063. Did they sleep on the floor?—No; they had bedsteads.
5064. Who bought them?—They made them themselves.
5065. Of wood?—Yes. I may state I noticed, in looking over my papers the other day, in making application to the Board for authority to get bedsteads made; the reply was that the staff of the station should be sufficient to make those articles. This would apply simply to the children sleeping in the house—that application I made.
5066. Did you produce sufficient vegetables on the station during the time you were there?—Yes. Almost every year we sold a good few potatoes, besides the regular consumption, to the people about Healesville.
5067. You had power to sell and buy?—I sold and bought everything on the station. Never until the hops did the Board interfere with me in buying and selling.
5068. You had full power?—I had full power. It was when they interfered with my power that I resigned.
5069. Why did you not fence in the ground if you had full power?—I had no power over the money. If I sold a ton of potatoes, with that money I could buy anything I liked; but they would not give me any money. I had to give an account to the Board of the money received.
5070. When you commenced to sell the hops, could you use the hop money?—No. I had applied for money before this time to fence—I think it was £250, but it might be only £200—and when the hops were sold I wrote to the Board, stating that I wanted to have this money as I had promised the aborigines that they should have good houses erected for them, and also to fence in the station with the money realized from the sale of the hops.

5071. What was their reply?—No reply. At last the question was asked, could not I do it with the staff on the station.

5072. They would not prevent you fencing if you could do it with the staff on the station?—No.

5073. Had you sufficient spare time?—No; I had been very busy putting in the hops.

5074. Did you consider the hops more important than fencing in the station?—Yes, until I had the hops established. Of course we never felt the want of the grass then.

5075. How long before you left did you commence growing hops?—About two years.

5076. What did you do with the labor on the station the ten years previous: why did you not fence the ground in then?—We cleared about 130 acres of ground and erected about five or six miles of fencing, and built all the huts. It was not of much consequence until about this time, because we had abundance of grass.

5077. Do you often see the blacks now?—Very often.

5078. Do they go to you to complain that they are not contented?—Sick people come to me almost daily for medicine and advice, sometimes as many as ten and twelve.

5079. I suppose you are aware they are not satisfied with the present management?—Yes.

5080. They tell you so?—Yes.

5081. Can you tell us whether they have as great reason as they say they have?—Yes, the reason is good, because they are not satisfied.

5082. There must be some reason. Are they properly treated?—I cannot pronounce upon the treatment.

5083. You can only speak upon what you hear?—What I know and what I hear are two different things. They complain that when they make any complaint to the manager he ignores it, takes no heed of it. They also have complained to me that when they have complained to Captain Page when he has visited, he also ignored them, and would take no notice.

5084. What was the nature of their complaints that no notice was taken of?—For instance, the case of Phinnimore that was severely chastised. In that case they brought the boy to me on the Sunday morning after the case happened, they brought him to the policeman, the policeman was not home. When I came home from church three or four of them were there with the boy. They said Mr. Strickland had beaten the boy very severely and knocked him against a case and cut his head. I examined the boy's head, and saw it was covered with blood, and I think Alick Campbell made the boy take off the shirt and showed me the back. I did not ask him any questions. I saw he had been beaten on the back with something with a knot on the end of it. I said, "The best thing you can do is to write to Mr. Jennings." He was President of the Board then. I was told afterwards they did not write to Mr. Jennings. I heard from them that they told Captain Page of the matter and he would take no particular notice of it. They told me this. I am simply telling you what I was told. Ultimately they told me they were being threatened to be prosecuted for the matter, and I wrote myself to Mr. Jennings upon the subject, telling him I had seen the boy and I thought it would be very wrong to prosecute the men for taking the part of the boy who had been so severely chastised, but ultimately there were five or six of them brought to the Court some two months afterwards for interfering with this boy. That is the only thing I can speak about Mr. Strickland, the way he went on in court then was something astonishing in a man professing to be a clergyman. First Mr. Strickland was examined touching what he had done to the boy, and then the boy was examined, and the boy seemed to me to give his evidence in the most upright straightforward manner that could possibly be, and while he was so doing Mr. Strickland got up in a most excited manner several times and interrupted the boy. The boy stated he was knocked against a case by Mr. Strickland. Mr. Strickland got up and said, "Oh, boy, how dare you; as sure as God is in heaven I never did any such thing." The boy was making exactly the same statement in court that he made to me two months before. Mr. Strickland stated in court he had taken his large eye-glass and examined the boy's head and could not see a single mark.

5085. Could not the Bench have seen the mark?—Mr. Armstrong examined the head, and he said he saw a mark, about an inch long.

5086. Two months after?—Two months after; but the day after it happened Mr. Strickland said he could not see it with his eye-glass, I saw a mass of blood. Two or three of them were fined for insubordination on that occasion; and I think myself it was harsh to deal so with men who were sympathizing with their own friends when they thought they were hardly dealt with. I do not say the boy was not chastised rightly, but they thought he was being hardly dealt with; and even according to Mr. Strickland's statement, when they came in and said they wanted to see the boy, he said, "If you can better the children, take them." I thought it a most astonishing thing on the part of the manager, and a clergyman, to prosecute them for doing a friendly part towards their own children.

5087. When they came down to your house and showed you the boy they told you the boy had been knocked against the corner of a case?—Yes.

5088. Before this Board he told us he had been struck with a bridle-rein?—Yes, he told me so too—that he struck him first and then gave him a shove against a case.

5089. The men were fined?—Two or three of them were fined.

5090. Some were let off?—Yes. I have seen them repeatedly brought there to the police court for mere frivolous things.

5091. Have you seen any there since that case?—No, I have not seen any since. I do not know if there have been any.

5092. As far as your knowledge goes, that is the last case?—I think so.

5093. Did you ever have occasion to bring them before the court?—Not for insubordination.

5094. For anything?—Once, I think. A man took away a horse—a black took away another's horse—and I sent a policeman after him. That was the only case, I think.

5095. When they make general complaints that they are not satisfied with the management, have you any idea of their reasons for being dissatisfied; do they complain that they do not get enough food?—They complain that they can never manage about the beef; they buy it in some way or another; I do not know the arrangement myself. They always wish to have it as they had it before.

5096. Do you think if they got it in that way they would work as well as they are working now?—It depends upon who is working manager.

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5097. Harris was telling us he could only get sufficient labor on the station to manage the hop ground. Do you think they have sufficient spare time to fence now and again, as well as keep the hop ground in good order?—I do not know how many men they have just now. If you ask me how many men could work the hop garden, I should say about ten aborigines, with a good leader, could do the whole work, with the exception of the picking season.

5098. With reference to the picking season, are there enough blacks of all descriptions to be able to pick the hops?—Yes, and a great deal more.

5099. Had you to employ white labor?—No.

5100. How many acres had you?—Ten acres, but I picked more hops from those ten acres than they have done the last three or four years from twenty acres.

5101. Who managed the picking. Were you there?—Yes, every day—picked and measured. An aboriginal kept the tally. The girls alone picked about 1,500 bushels of hops.

5102. Are you aware of the number of working men on the station?—I am not.

5103. You do not know the number on the station at all?—No, not just now. I never enquired.

5104. Do you think from their appearance they get sufficient clothing?—I have seen some of the children very deficient. I saw some in town most wretchedly clothed; the girl I took to the Eye and Ear Hospital was most wretchedly clothed.

5105. You think the men are better clothed than the women?—They seem always well clothed.

5106. With reference to that statement that appeared in the paper, will you give your own version of it now—why you left Coranderrk?—I do not know if you are aware of it, but I never received a penny for being at Coranderrk. My engagement with the Government was purely Inspector of Aborigines, and I undertook that office with the understanding that I would be allowed to collect children that I found in my travellings and make a home for them. With great difficulty I got this liberty. I first applied and got the reserve where Mr. Mitchell's station is; and then the Hoddle's Creek diggings broke out; and, to make it more out of the way, I selected where we are now, and commenced operations there. Of course I was always liable to be called away three or four times a year on my tours of inspection. For the first four years I had to pay Harris out of my own salary to stop with Mrs. Green; the Board would not allow me a penny for him to stop with her when I was away.

5107. What was your salary?—£300.

5108. Any travelling expenses?—No.

5109. You had to pay your own expenses?—Pay all my own expenses; and I never had any more until a year or two prior to my leaving. I stated I would have to give it up; I could not make ends meet, and I got 10s. a day when I was actually travelling. After employing Harris for four years, I got the Board to employ him. I had made application before, but they refused to do so. There was no use in continuing; there had been so many trials and failures in getting the aborigines settled down that the Board did not feel themselves justified in spending more money on Coranderrk; but ultimately I got Harris, I think in 1866. The first seed potatoes I bought myself, the first plough I bought from Mr. Armstrong at the Yarra Flats out of my own money. The first year I paid a considerable sum of money for meat for the aborigines. We went on improving, and ultimately the Board did assist in building those houses, and then gave us a teacher, but I could not get them to give a single boot to an aboriginal. I have a letter, which I can produce if necessary, to state that the aborigines could surely make boots for themselves. For years I did not get a single boot from the Board; I got them made by the shoemakers out of money made from the crops. I went on clearing the ground until we had about 130 acres cleared; and I put in green crops. I tried wheat, but I must say that was always a failure. Ultimately we grew a large quantity of oats; I sold them up the track, and got a very good price for them. During one of my tours of inspection I discovered the hop culture over in Gippsland, and the blacks picking them. I saw it was a thing capitally adapted for aborigines. Just at that time Mr. Search from the *Australasian* was sent up. I had been talking to Mr. Smyth upon the propriety of getting those things established. Mr. Search was sent up, and he proposed growing flax. I told him I had been thinking of hops. He said, "That is the very thing." Hops were put in, and Mr. Burgess was sent up there; and Mr. Search was sent up frequently; and from that day I was ignored altogether; I was simply a tool. I would get a letter telling me to place myself in communication with Mr. Search, to get instructions from him as to sowing grass and other things, and see that Mr. Burgess had ten or twelve men; and that it had been reported to the office that such and such stumps had not been taken up. The letters I had were legion, and while all these were accumulating I had a letter—"Will Mr. Green be kind enough to inform me when he will be able to send in his report of his annual tour of inspection. The Report is kept back for his report, and, if it is not in in such a time, the Report will be printed without it, and a statement put in that he failed to fulfil his tour of inspection." I have all those letters to corroborate me. Mr. Search came up just exactly after I had done hop-picking, and we picked 11,000 bushels that year; we had close upon eight tons of hops. He came up just after.

5110. Was that in 1874?—Yes, I think so.

5111. That was off ten acres?—Yes.

5112. And they were picked by aborigines alone?—Yes; he came up and went through all the place. He went to the potatoes; there had been a good deal of thunder and rain during the picking, and he reported to the Board that the potato crop was shamefully weedy, and pigs neglected. I was not there when he was there. I cannot remember all the report, but it was sent to me, and I replied to it. I heard no more about it until a day or two before this Board came up that you have asked me about. I never got any notice that they were coming up to inquire into anything. I got a letter a day or two before, requesting me to muster the cattle; that was an impossibility in the month of April. I mustered as many as I could with my own horse—they never gave me a Government horse—and the Board came up, Mr. Macredie, Mr. Jennings, Mr. Mackenzie, Mr. Thomas, and Mr. Smyth, those were the members that were present. I met them, and there seemed to be no unpleasantness in any matter until we were walking up the street, I in company with Messrs. Jennings, Macredie, and Mackenzie, and Mr. Smyth behind with Harris. Mr. Smyth came running up after us, and said—"Gentlemen, you heard that there was fever on the station some time ago, it is no marvel," in an excited way, "Mr. Harris has just informed me that they are using that workshop and the buggy-shed of Mr. Green's for a closet." I said—"That is the first time I have heard of it." He said—"I have ordered Harris to take it down." Mr. Macredie said—"No, the least we

can do before we take down Mr. Green's buggy-shed is to put up a new one for him." That was all that passed then.

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5113. The report was there were no vegetables, that the house was in bad condition, and other things?—About the stable, that was really, as they said, bad, and I will tell you the reason. I had the horse, prior to this, under the cooling room—the hop cooling room—and, during my absence, Mr. Burgess would not have it there, and made the blacks put it in this old dilapidated stable. It was an old stable I erected some years before for Mr. Smyth's horse when he was going to pay us a visit. When I came home and found the horse was there I was very much displeased, but, rather than have any disturbance about it, I gave orders to Harris to build a new stable, and I stated there and then that I had done so. Mr. Smyth stated that Harris and Burgess had no business to put a single shingle upon the place that belonged to Mr. Green. I said nothing; I was in bad health at the time. He states that the water was open; it was nothing of the kind; I had it well covered. There was not a house over it. I was never requested to put a house over it, but I had it covered with slabs nicely dressed so that the water would run away. The race was not fenced in, that is true; I was never instructed to do it; that would be three or four miles of fencing to fence it on each side. Then as to the number of water-closets, there was a complaint about that. In my own house Mr. Smyth said something about the closets, and asked how many there were. I said they had all closets except one; that in itself was not the exact truth in the sense in which they understood me to state they had all closets—they had all closets for use; every two huts had a closet between them. The doctor had asked me to get them erected some years before and that was done, except in one case where they refused to go to the closet at all, and I think it would have been well for Coranderrk if there had never been a closet at all, for you might go round Coranderrk before there was a closet at all, and I defy man or woman to know anything had been deposited there, for the reason that they are afraid some one will get hold of it and destroy them with it.

5114. That is all superstition?—Yes, it makes them bury it; and some of the old people will not go into the closet even now.

5115. Is it a matter of cleanliness?—I have no doubt it was cleanliness originally, but it is superstition now: they are afraid of another getting hold of it and doing them harm with it. I am convinced that, if there had never been a closet in Coranderrk, it would have been better. I believe that, since those closets were established, the mortality has increased a great deal; and I believe it has been the means of spreading disease more among them. I stated there was a closet for all the different people except one hut. I had simply this hut in my mind that refused to have one. He was chief of the Yarra tribe, old Simon; he is dead now. I stated there were closets for all except this hut. It appears, from those minutes, that they went round and counted. I never saw the minutes until I saw them in the papers, and I was fourteen months in the service after that. It was rather cutting for me never to be called upon to explain them. They had gone round and counted the closets and found five without, which was quite correct—that is they found fewer closets than houses; but I hold my statement was correct, that they have closets for the houses.

5116. At a convenient distance?—They have gardens, and the closets were between the two houses in the gardens.

5117. With reference to the vegetables?—In the kitchen garden it states there were a few, but it would not suffice one person. I can tell you that there were exactly 1,200 cabbages then in the kitchen garden, and 100 cauliflowers and some beds of onions. I had it in my account. I kept the moneys paid and received. All the 1,200 plants I purchased and planted there. They were in the garden, and it is made out that there would not be more than would do for one individual. The cabbages grew to about nine pounds each.

5118. That statement is not correct?—Not correct. I say there were 1,200 cabbages in that spot, and each aboriginal had a little garden of his own. I sent down a return, which is no doubt in the office, with the exact quantity that each aboriginal had in his garden of vegetables. It was one of the special works I was called upon to do. The Board met in a room in my house. I should have told you I built that myself; they would not build a house for me. In that house the Board met, and Mr. Smyth asked me if I had applied for money to erect the fence. I said I had. I do not know, but probably I was a little hot. He got in a great passion, and said, "Sir, if you answer me that way I will order you out of the house." I said, "Mr. Smyth, if I have said anything wrong I will be glad to apologize." I said, "I only said 'Yes.'" "But it is the tone of your speech, sir," he went on, until Mr. Macredie insisted on his conducting himself right. He got up and said he would never sit on the Board any more, when he had been found fault with. The Board said Mr. Green does not mean any offence. I said, "No; I do not mean any offence; I might be a little hot." I was really very sick at the time. I had been very ill with low fever, and had come back from a long tour round the Wimmera district, and had all those letters waiting for me; and answering them, and one thing and another, had upset me. I kept my temper, and stood up and said, "Well, gentlemen, it appears to me that really I cannot give you satisfaction here, as I have really been trying all I can to do everything right. I must confess that there is much just now undone that I would have liked to have done, but I have been away so much, and striving to get the hop garden in good order, I have had to neglect things I would have otherwise done; and, seeing there is an inclination in some of the members of the Board to think I have not been doing right, I wish you would relieve me of Coranderrk, and put somebody else here; I will do everything to help them." About a week or so afterwards, I had a letter sent up, stating that what I had said would be considered a resignation. I wrote back, stating I did not want to resign exactly, but I wanted to be relieved for the time of Coranderrk.

5119. And retain the inspectorship?—Yes. They would not allow me to withdraw my resignation, but I went on as inspector for fourteen months afterwards. I vacated Coranderrk and went on for fourteen months afterwards. I was not dismissed then.

5120. Whom did they appoint after you?—I recommended myself the schoolmaster, Mr. Stahle; he was also dismissed afterwards. He was a very good man; the blacks liked him very well. He is now managing the station at Lake Condah. If he had been left there, Coranderrk would have been in good working order. I went there in hop-picking time and helped him; I was then inspector. He was dismissed the same as I was.

5121. What led to your giving up the inspectorship?—I was sent away up to the Murray to form a station there after I left Coranderrk; and when I went there I found the place that had been reserved

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one sheet of water, probably ten or fifteen feet depth of water. Of course I had to write back, and it took a fortnight to get a reply. I wrote down stating the state of affairs there, and showing that it was impossible to form a station where the reserve was, and also stating that there were only so many aborigines there, and the whole of the young ones were willing to come to Coranderrk with me there and then, and I thought it would be very injudicious to form a station there, seeing Coranderrk was in existence. In the meantime, waiting the reply of the Board, I went all round to see if I could find a suitable place for a station. The next letter I got was that the Board did not any further require my services as inspector; but, owing to my long connection with the Board they would wish me to go for three months and take charge of the Wimmera station, where Mr. Spieseke was. In the meantime I had got a letter, stating that Mr. Ogilvie had stated that it was the whole object to get the blacks removed from Coranderrk, and to the station at the Murray with me there, or to Lake Condah.

5122. *By Captain Page.*—You did not hear him say that?—No, I got a letter from a party that said they heard him say so. When I heard it was the object of the Board to move the aborigines from Coranderrk, I declined to go; so I was dismissed because I would be no party to moving the aborigines from Coranderrk.

5123. *By the Board.*—You were to be used as a sort of decoy?—I understood so. I knew afterwards it was a fact.

5124. Was that the piece of land Mr. Curr referred to to-day?—I believe he went up the Murray. I think that site was very well adapted, as far as the Murray aborigines were concerned.

5125. Where was that. Was it on the Murray?—No, not exactly on the Murray; it was near the Murray, near Kulkyn. I also found another place lower down the Murray, nearer Mildura—a very suitable place.

5126. Any township there?—Yes, over the river. They can go over to the New South Wales side and laugh at us, and get as much drink as they like. I have known them go and get a whole case of gin over the river.

5127. That led you to retire from the whole thing?—Yes. I may state that on one occasion Mr. Smyth came to Coranderrk, and told me that there were influences being brought to bear upon the Board and the Government to have the aborigines removed from Coranderrk—that would be in 1868 or thereabouts—and he believed that they would be well inclined to give way, and he thought also Mr. Grant (who was then in office) was also inclined to give way; but, he said, "If we give up the station we will be handsomely paid for our improvements; you will get a handsome price for your house here; and we will get a good price for all our improvements, and will be able to establish good buildings for the aborigines; it is thought to send them to Western Port." That was the idea then—somewhere near the Big Swamp. He said, "Of course we know we cannot move them without you. You know you can easily move them." I stood and listened to him. I said, "Mr. Smyth, I know that I could move the aborigines if I could assure them it was for their good to do so, because I could speak to them as men and brothers, and I know they would go, but I will not try—decidedly not." There was no more said upon that. When I returned from Gippsland upon another occasion, just before we picked this fine picking of hops, I was in Mr. Smyth's office there. He said, "Mr. Green, a gentleman has just been here, and has offered to rent Coranderrk from us, keep you and the blacks, and bid you do nothing if we give him Coranderrk." I said, "I could do that, too, if you gave me Coranderrk; I do not want any such thing; Coranderrk will be self-supporting." He said, "Why has it not been self-supporting?" I said, "I do not want to employ any one but the blacks to make it self-supporting, because I do not want to have it contaminated by the low white people we would have about." He got in a great passion, and said he did not care whether it was black, white, or blue labor—I ought to have it self-supporting, if it could be self-supporting. I may state that since then Mr. Smyth has expressed himself sorry for all that happened. I saw him before he went to India, and he expressed himself sorry that anything had happened. I saw him the day after this deputation of aborigines was down, and he said, "I congratulate you on the prospect of going back to Coranderrk; it has only been a mess since you left." I said, "I am not going back." I tell you this to show that he seems sorry for what has transpired since. I have not the least doubt that Coranderrk can be made really and truly, within a couple of years or three years, thoroughly self-supporting, not only for the few aborigines that are there, but I believe it could be made to support all the aborigines that are wandering about everywhere.

5128. To do that it would require to be fenced in?—There is one point I want to state. I was charged with having my cattle running on the run. I admitted to the Board that it was the case—they were straying there, but I paid to Mr. McLuskey £15 for liberty to run my cattle on his run. I only had about thirty cattle, all told; and, when Mr. McLuskey sold to Mr. Mitchell, he let the half of the run to me and another gentleman, and I paid Mr. Mitchell for the half of his run, that is the half joining Coranderrk, as I stated in the letter I wrote to the *Argus*. There is no doubt the runs run one into the other, and moreover I had seventy-nine acres of selected land outside, and belonging to myself, unfenced too. The horses were there too, but they had to do all the work on the station—my own horses. Of course they had no business there—they were trespassing, but I did not do it to make gain, for I paid this gentleman for several years to run my stock there.

5129. Did you make much butter and cheese during the time you were at Coranderrk?—Some years we made as much as half a ton of cheese.

5130. Were you able to sell any of it?—Yes, and a large quantity of butter.

5131. "Why the reserve had not been fenced. He said that four or five miles had been done. He said he applied for authority to fence the area in August 1872. Had not applied since until four months ago?"—That is quite correct.

5132. "Grazing horses and cattle, his private property, on the land reserved for the aborigines. Mr. Green was first questioned respecting the cattle. Said that he paid £15 to Mr. Mitchell for grazing his cattle on Mitchell's run, and that they strayed on to the reserve. Subsequently, when questioned respecting his grazing horses, his private property, on the reserve, he stated that he paid Mitchell £15 for a portion of his run. One of the members drew Mr. Green's attention to the discrepancy in his statement, and asked for an explanation. Mr. Green could not give an explanation. He admitted that cattle and horses, his private property, did graze on the reserve?"—The explanation is plain. It was not to Mr. Mitchell I paid the £15, it was to Mr. McLuskey. They have inserted there Mitchell's name instead

of McLuskey. Mitchell gave me half of his run, that was substantially what I stated. I had not half the run from McLuskey, but the privilege of running my cattle over the whole run for the £15. Then, when Mitchell came, instead of the whole run I had half the run altogether—I and another party. We paid £30. I paid £15, and the other party £15.

5133. "Pigs. The sadly emaciated condition of the pigs was mentioned. Mr. Green stated that they were fed on offal only. There was no milk for them"?—There was no milk. They were not emaciated, they were poor—that is they were store pigs. They were receiving offal and potatoes. They were not in the condition I should have liked them to be in. I had only just come home, and the boys did really neglect them when I was away. They were not in the condition they should have been—that is correct enough.

5134. The next is the dairy :—"Dairy.—Mr. Green admitted that the dairy operations had been discontinued. Had never reported the matter to the board. Once there were about 60 cows in milk ; now there are five. Once made butter and cheese ; none made now. Thinks the bulls are not good"?—I began the dairy without asking the Board about it. It was the winter and the cows had not come into use—we never dairied in the winter time—we dairied in the summer time. I never explained to the Board about those things. I began the dairy on my own account, and when the winter time came the cows were all turned out except a few to keep us in milk.

5135. "Garden and Orchard.—Admits neglect. Says there is abundance of potatoes—nothing else. Says he applied for seeds, got them and sowed them. Said he 'always had sufficient vegetables for the whole place.' Has a farm of his own adjoining the reserve. Only visits it on Saturday afternoon"?—Yes, quite true, I have already explained that. There were then 1,200 plants—very likely there were not many cabbages in the garden except those young ones, but there was a previous return sent in to the Board with the full amount of vegetables a month or two before. I know there was always plenty of vegetables—there might have been a month or two in the winter time perhaps when they were without. Each black had the privilege of going to the potato house with his bucket or bag and taking what he liked. There was a great supply of potatoes that year. I think I sold some potatoes just before the inquiry.

5136. "Aqueduct and Tank.—Attention drawn to the aqueduct which is not fenced and to the tank which is not fenced or properly covered. Can give no explanation"?—I was never instructed to fence nor ever thought it was necessary. It is not fenced to the present day. It would have taken about three miles of fencing to do the aqueduct.

5137. And it is not fenced in at present?—No. I do not see myself the necessity of fencing it. I was never instructed to fence it. As to the covering, I have already stated there was a covering of slabs—there was no house.

5138. "The Saw-mill.—It was alleged that all the work the saw-mill had done was seen in the few feet of wood used in the construction of a new cottage. Mr. Green said more had been cut. Blacks had gone with a file and filed away the teeth of the saw—made them round"?—Yes, the saw-mill was not the success it should have been, but there was a large quantity of timber cut in it for the cooling house and other things. The price paid for the mill was only £38, so we could not have much of a mill, but I got it to cut slabs for the station and the carpenter we had there turned out 700 feet in a day, so it did more than a couple of men could do.

5139. "Mr. Green denied that he ever gives the blacks tobacco to induce them to work"?—I deny that to this moment, I never needed it. I often, when going to work with the aborigines, carried tobacco in my pocket, and when I found them getting tired I would say, "Come let us have a little smoke and chat," and I would take a fig out of my pocket and say, "Fill that hungry pipe of yours and let us have a smoke and chat," and as soon as they had a smoke I would say, "Well, we must be at it again." I never gave them tobacco to make them work. I gave them the tobacco when they had worked. I think the returns of the Board will show how much tobacco I used on the station. I found there was as much tobacco used during the next two years as I used in the previous seven years.

5140. I see that, in 1872, you sold 20 lbs. of tobacco?—Yes, tobacco grown on the station. I tried tobacco before the hops, but when I found the hops growing in Gippsland I abandoned the tobacco.

5141. You also sold butter and cheese to the value of £120?—Yes.

5142. Potatoes £90?—Yes.

5143. *By Captain Page.*—Were you growing hops at this time?—No, we had not commenced then. I think we had commenced hops when we sold the butter, but we had not the hops in full swing.

5144. *By the Board.*—You were preparing land for hops that same year?—Yes.

5145. You sold £80 worth of baskets that year?—Yes ; there was a firm in town that sold them for us, Mr. Reid, and old Mr. Hart. I used to sell as much as £10 worth at a time.

5146. Straw and hay £20, oats £25?—Yes.

5147. Fruit £20?—That would not be sold, that would be made into jam.

5148. The total would be £662?—That would be the value of the produce raised, the exact cash received would be given in the same return.

5149. "Mr. Green denies that the workshop is used as a privy. Said that each house (except one) was provided with a privy"?—I explained that before.

5150. "Mr. Green says he 'is away five or six months in the year travelling'"?—Frequently.

5151. "Mr. Green admitted that no sufficient fence was placed around the cemetery for aborigines at Coranderrk." Is it fenced in now?—I believe so. Each grave was fenced in then. Each black fenced in his own grave ; but there was no fence round the cemetery.

5152. Thomas Harris stated :—There is no paddock in which to wean the calves. Some calves run with their mothers for two years, some twelve months. There are too many bulls, and the grass is eaten by other stock. I have seen Mr. Green's cattle on the run. Green has four grey horses, a buggy horse, a pony, and two unbroken horses on the run. The pigs are not fed. They could be fed with the small potatoes which are now allowed to rot. Says he told Green this. There were scarcely any vegetables last year. Harris denies the statement "that there was abundance for all on the station last year." The statement is untrue. The orchard is in a bad state, because nothing is done to it. One of the trees, he says, in his own garden, put in at the same time, is as big as four in the neglected orchard. The blacks would work for persons who would give them stores. Mr. Green takes figs of tobacco in his pocket, and gives them to the blacks when working. The workshop is used as a privy. He has seen ordure there. It is not

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merely a urinal. The young children use it as a privy. Each house has not a privy. The following have not privies:—Tommy the Farmer, Aleck, Edgar, John Briggs, Jemmy Barker, King Billy, Lanky John Derrick; and the single women, who live in one house, are without a privy. The latter have no privies, they go where they can. The cattle have not been mustered for fifteen months. Harris says he gets on well with the blacks when Mr. Green is away. They work well for him. There is not a sufficient supply of meat for the blacks. Mr. Burgess called in. Mr. Burgess drew attention to several matters required for the hop plantation, of which the secretary took a note. Mr. Green, re-called, says that he meant in the street. He reiterated the statement that all the houses in the street except one had privies. Street examined, and it was found that there were no privies at the following houses:—Briggs, Arnott, Punch, Simon, Aleck. Could give no satisfactory explanation respecting the want of proper conveniences for the single women. Says the cattle were mustered in April of this year. All the blacks helped—well, three or four helped. 470 were mustered. There are more, they were not all mustered. In conclusion stated that his health was failing, and that he would be glad to relinquish the management of the station." These are signed by Mr. Macredie?—I think I have noticed about the workshop. I have stated the true facts of the case concerning that, that it was not as stated there. I sent the paper to Harris when I saw the minutes, and requested him to write to me his view of those minutes just now, and he did so. He wrote to me stating that beyond all doubt the cattle were mustered, and that what he meant when he stated that the workshop was used as a privy was that it was simply used as a urinal. That is his statement now. Of course my attention was not even drawn to that, or I would have put a stop to it.

5153. You never saw those minutes?—I never knew they were in existence before.

5154. You did not know the nature of Harris's evidence on that occasion?—The Board questioned me on those statements, but I never knew what Harris had said. The Board questioned me upon them, but not in the presence Harris for me to cross-examine him. Even the minutes that are printed do not give the full statement contained there. I think in fairness Harris should be called before this Board to state what his view of it is.

5155. To state whether this is a true report of what took place at that time?—Exactly. I thought it very injudicious of the Board to put it in. I was asked to go back to take the management altogether, even after I had been away for several months. I got a letter to go back, and was engaged to go back, until Mr. Ogilvie came down from the station. I consented to go back upon the understanding that I would be left to manage without being interfered with. The Inspector might come to the station, I stated, and make any suggestion through the Board to me that he liked, but that I would not go back if the Inspector could come up and tell me, or any of the blacks, to do anything. I was willing to do anything through the Board. I was engaged through the Board, and Mr. Jennings asked me to stop for the following day, and, in the meantime, Mr. Ogilvie came down, and he had been questioned about the matter, and he objected to my being as free as that. I was called to the Board, and asked if I would have any objections to have it altered, that Mr. Ogilvie might suggest to me when he came that such and such should be done. I said certainly I objected to it. I would not object to his suggesting through the Board, but I would not go back upon that condition, and the thing fell through. I could not go back, because I saw I could not manage in that way, and I would not undertake it.

5156. Do you remember the amount of hops you produced in 1874?—Over 15,000 lbs.

5157. Eight tons?—Not quite, but very nearly.

5158. With only the blacks working?—Only the blacks working.

5159. Do you remember what those hops realised in 1874?—About £1,100.

5160. Do you know what the expense was?—Just about £92 for picking, and I might say I had to write to the Board several times for the money. That was the first wages that ever I paid to the aborigines, and I never got them paid till the month of June. Although we had all that money I had to write repeatedly to get that money.

5161. What religious instruction did the blacks receive during your management; had you a clergyman?—Yes, several who visited and performed marriages.

5162. And dispensed the communion?—Yes.

5163. You had communicants?—Yes, there were some 26 or 27 adults baptised, without children.

5164. Have you read the reports written by Dr. Gibson during the time you were censured by the Board?—Yes.

5165. Are you aware they are all favorable to you and your management of the place?—Yes, and Mr. Smyth visited the place just before and reported everything in a satisfactory condition; in the beginning of 1873 you will find it, I think. The exact quantity of hops was 11,861 bushels.

5166. Am I to understand that you had not only the management of Coranderrk, but the inspection of six stations, at £300 a year?—Yes, decidedly.

5167. And had to pay your own expenses?—Yes, all expenses. I may also state that I asked for something for Mrs. Green, and they would never give her a penny.

5168. She received no salary as matron?—Never a penny, and she had often the whole correspondence to carry on. Mr. Smyth would write asking why this and that was not done, and she never got a penny. I see by the evidence that some of the witnesses examined state that the women conducted themselves under previous management in an immoral way. I am astonished to hear that; I never heard any complaints from any quarter. I only know of one single case of immorality during all my time—that is, outside immorality.

5169. Did the Board never take steps to find out the paternity of those children, and make them support them?—There was one case occurred there during my time. There was a teacher sent there, and on my return from one of my tours the aborigines called my attention to his immoral conduct, and I ascertained that it was a fact. I called the girl, and the girl told me that he had promised to marry her. I at once brought it before the Board, and the Board came up and investigated the case, and found it to be the fact, and the teacher was dismissed. A child was born, and I wanted to take steps to have this young man taken to task about it, but there was no movement in the matter. The child was dead born, but I wanted to bring the young man to task about it. That is the only case during the whole of my time of any immoral conduct that I know of.

5170. *By Captain Page.*—When was that?—I think about 1868. I do not remember the exact year.

5171. *By the Board.*—Would this be correct, that Dr. Gibson states, that the aborigines are orderly, cheerful, and contented, the whole reflecting much credit on the management—that is 1874?—Decidedly.

5172. *By Captain Page.*—How did the men work for you?—As a whole, very well.

5173. Were they obedient?—Very.

5174. You had no trouble in getting them to do what you wanted?—As a rule. Sometimes they were a little lazy.

5175. How did you manage when they disobeyed?—Reasoned with them, shamed them out of it.

5176. You would not call in the police?—No, never. I shamed them out of it.

5177. There is a letter here in which you say, "Sir, I have to inform you that nearly all the men and big boys left the station last evening, without my leave, and went to the Yarra Flats to play cricket there, with the cricket club of that place. This is the second time they have done so. I received a letter from Mr. Batt, of the Yarra Flats, on the 3rd inst., and also one from Mr. Cummings; both letters I enclose. I sent a letter to each of them, stating that I could not give my consent, but that I would allow the aborigines to play them here. They took no notice of these letters, but sent up some of the aborigines camped there to tell those here to come and play, and several of them went. On Monday last, I saw by the local paper that they were going to play another match, and sent another letter to Cummings, who signs himself secretary to the club, informing him that I could not consent to let the aborigines go, and also that he was laying himself open to be fined £20 for inducing the aborigines to leave the station. Of this no notice was taken, but Harry Briggs was sent up to ask them to go, and they nearly all went, as above stated. If the Board will allow me I will summons Cummings, and any other one of the club who has been guilty of inducing the aborigines to leave the station"—Quite correct; and I wanted to summon the parties who got them away.

5178. "Mounted Constable Armstrong, 2342, most respectfully applies to the superintendent for instructions as to how to act with the aboriginals stationed at the black camp, two miles from Healesville (Coranderrk). The superintendent, Mr. Green, came to the constable on Saturday last, to get him to try and put a stop to a cricket match between the Yarra Flat club and the aboriginals. The constable did not in any way interfere, as the superintendent said he would summon the captain of the club. To-day, about fifteen men, women, and children went away for their native place, Mount Hope. The constable was informed of their departure by the superintendent's wife, the superintendent being on a tour of inspection. The constable succeeded in finding them, and ordered them one and all back to the station. They promised to go, but the men say they will not stop with that superintendent, as he starves them. The constable wants to know to what extent his power as a constable goes with the aboriginals, men, women, and children. An early answer is requested"—I never heard of that before.

5179. Here is a memo. signed M. Green with reference to that:—"The blacks that left the station on Thursday have returned, and brought the children back. The policeman at Healesville met them, and induced them to return, and they have promised to stay until Mr. Green returns."

5180. *By the Board.*—You were absent then?—Yes; I never heard of that before.

5181. *By Captain Page.*—Mr. Green writes again:—"The blacks, whose names appear on the margin, left the station to-day without telling Thomas Harris, or any other in charge, that they were leaving, and have taken with them six children. They all belong to Mount Hope"—

5182. *By the Board.*—That all occurred during your absence?—During my absence.

5183. *By Captain Page.*—You cannot be said to be managing the station if you were absent?—I was not managing the station at all from an official point of view. I got nothing for it.

5184. *By the Board.*—That was not part of your engagement?—No. I was engaged as Inspector, and treated and paid as the Inspector.

5185. Whatever you did in the management of Coranderrk was over and above what you were engaged to do?—Always.

5186. *By Captain Page.*—Was the place self-supporting when you left in 1874?—Yes, as far as the expense of keeping the blacks was concerned.

5187. The keeping the blacks alone?—Yes, I think a little over.

5188. Was the station self-supporting—you cannot pick out one particular part and say that was self-supporting—do you remember the expenses on the station for that year?—I think for food and clothing to the aborigines it was something about £800 or £900; that is during my part of the year.

5189. The whole expenses were £2,009?—That would be after I left. I was only there for about eight months of that year.

5190. I see here—"Laborer £41, horse-feed £16 2s. 4d."?—That horse-feed was got after I left.

5191. "Secretary in lieu of travelling expenses and for services rendered £100"?—There were no travelling expenses at Coranderrk.

5192. "Buildings, &c., £294 11s. 5d."?—The buildings cannot be put down as an expense of Coranderrk—the permanent buildings.

5193. Why not?—I should not think so. What I state is that the amount realized for the produce of the station was more than the aborigines cost for keeping.

5194. *By the Board.*—That was from the 1st of January to the 31st of January 1874?—Yes. I was away four months of that time. There was a large quantity of stores got after I left. The price we got for the hops and other produce more than kept them in clothes and food.

5195. *By Captain Page.*—What was your suggestion in reference to the working of the station, in order to make it self-supporting?—I do not remember.

5196. You state the station was self-supporting, but when you left here you stated—"With the view of making this station self-supporting in a short time, I have the honor to suggest that the following system be adopted:—1st. That all the aborigines who will work a fair day's work be paid wages according to their work. 2nd. That those who are able to work, but will not work, worth their keep, get certificates, and be sent from the station, and compelled to work for their living. 3rd. That I be allowed to employ two white men, one to work at all times in the garden, the other to work the horses and look after them; these men's wages to be paid from the produce of the station. 4th. That Mr. Burgess's services be dispensed with as soon as the present hop crop is in"—Those that are able to work, and will not work, I would get rid of; not those that cannot work; but I could always get the worth of their food out of them. I always reasoned with the aborigines. I made that law with their own sanction. If the aboriginal

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is put into the question, he will strive to keep his own law. That is where I consider you have failed with your management when any dispute arose with them. There was a little girl died of croup, and when she died the aborigines charged me with killing her. One of the girls stated to the others that I put a spoon down her throat to make it big. I assembled them all, and took the girl that made the statement and used the spoon on her tongue the same as I had done on the girl that died. I said, "That is all I have done," and they were all perfectly ashamed of themselves for saying such a thing. I have not the least doubt that, if you would adopt the same plan with the aborigines, you would succeed. I always treated them as free men, and reasoned with them.

5197. Did you ever have to punish the blacks?—No. I punished the boys and some of the girls, and also fined some of them for drinking. That was the aboriginal law, that if any got drunk they were fined. They were fined according to their own law; and some of them were chastised according to their own law that they had made at my suggestion.

5198. Where did you collect those blacks from that you brought to Coranderrk?—Principally from the Goulburn and the Murray; all up and down the Murray and Sandhurst, and Jim Crow and Ballarat.

5199. You did not go and get them from the other stations?—No.

5200. If it was stated that you went to other stations with photographs of young fellows and showed them to the girls to seduce them away, would that be true?—No.

5201. There is a letter here to Mr. Mackie from Mr. Hagenauer:—"Ramahyuck, January 10, 1869. My dear Mr. Mackie,—We have had an official visit from Mr. Green, of Coranderrk station, on the Yarra, which visit, I am afraid, has done a good deal of harm, for he invited nearly all our settled blacks to come over to his station, and they think that they should go, as he, of course, shows to them that he is the chief man for the blacks in the colony. I was in bed ill at the time and did not hear of it, but am told by the blacks that he went from house to house and invited them, each one, to come to his station, and likewise also the children. If such doings should be allowed, as he had already done so some years ago, it would destroy all our work, and bring the natives only back into their wandering habits between here and Melbourne. I have made up my mind to set a stop to that sort of doings after I have come to Melbourne. I beg also that you will not take any steps (in consideration of Mr. Green) until I have seen you on the subject. I feel sure the will of the Government is to send their inspector round to encourage the blacks to settle down quietly and not to wander about. The man (Mr. Green) seeks his own glory, and wants to get our people to raise his praise, although it may do harm. God will help us in difficulties with such Christian brethren. You will soon hear more about it. Faithfully yours. (Signed) F. A. HAGENAUER." Here is an extract from another letter on the 18th January 1869:—"Dear Mr. Mackie,—The mischief done here by Mr. Green was really greater than at first thought of. He returned here from Lake Tyers last Friday, when I was not at home. Mrs. Hagenauer, however, took him to account and gave him a real good sermon about it, telling him of all the mischief he had done from the time when a great number of our blacks had been induced to leave here and go to Coranderrk until now. He got a good lesson and deserved it. He promised not to do it any more, for which reason I would now ask you not to say anything about it at present. I shall soon know about Mr. Green, for, no doubt, he will soon express his own selfish thoughts in his report to the Board, for Mrs. Hagenauer told him that as we had done our duty with the blacks, towards God and man, and, as servants of the church, we had no fear for him; but that I was clear on the subject if it was not stopped it must be brought before the Government. Faithfully yours. (Signed) F. A. HAGENAUER." That seems a very different account?—Before you read any more I will tell you the circumstances of the case. There was a young married couple who invited me very politely to tea. She was a West Australian young woman—her name was Cameron. I went to tea as invited, and after I had done my tea I said I hoped I would have the pleasure of giving her tea some time at Coranderrk. The whole matter arose out of that single hope. I must say I heard plenty from Mrs. Hagenauer. That was how it arose. I never induced or tried to induce anyone to come; I simply said that.

5202. Mr. Hagenauer says that 26 were taken away from his station; is that untrue?—Decidedly. I never took an aboriginal from his station. There was an order in Council sent to me long after that to get an aboriginal from Mr. Hagenauer that he could not manage—a young boy it was. More than that, I offered to get some children to send to Mr. Hagenauer.

5203. *By the Board.*—You never tried to get any away from Mr. Hagenauer?—Never; he thought so, but I never heard about it before. He says I did a great deal of evil. There was a young married woman away with another man, and I was requested, during my inspecting tour, to see if I could get this young woman taken from this man. I succeeded in getting her from the other man, and sent her away with some blacks, but they let her away again. My reason for coming back was to tell them of my success in getting her away. I got her at Lake Tyers. I went back to tell them about my getting her back and that she had eloped again.

5204. *By Captain Page.*—Did you say that you suggested the growing of hops at Coranderrk, not Mr. Search?—Decidedly; I suggested to Mr. Search. He was undoubtedly the first to suggest it to the Board, but I suggested to Mr. Search. He told me he had arranged about growing flax. I listened to him and said—"Mr. Search, I have been thinking of trying hops; I have seen them growing in Gippsland." He said—"Capital."

5205. You have seen that a deputation came down here lately?—Yes.

5206. Did they not have a deputation against you?—I do not remember. There was a deputation came down once.

5207. Did not Jemmy Barker come down then?—Very likely, but I do not remember. I know he was rather good at that. I remember a deputation coming down because I would not sell the potatoes and give them the money. That is the only one I remember coming down.

5208. *By the Board.*—Have you in any way incited the blacks to move on your behalf?—Decidedly not.

5209. *By Captain Page.*—At no time?—At no time. I think I ought to say that I think it would be cruel on the part of the Board to move the aborigines from Coranderrk, and that is why I refused to be a party to it. There is no data to show that it is unhealthy for the aborigines. I stated long ago that, if medical men could show to me from data that they would be more healthy elsewhere, I would be able to induce the aborigines to go to that locality, but, seeing there was no data I could work upon conscientiously with the aborigines, I could not move in it. I think it would be most cruel to move them, because there is

no doubt that many of the aborigines who came there as children have been taught that it would be their home if they would stay and work. I was sure no Government would seek to take away that piece of ground if they would do their work. I think decidedly, unless it could be proved by unprejudiced gentlemen, that the station is unhealthy for aborigines, it would be outrageous to exercise an influence to move them from there. I must also say that, if it was *bonâ fide* shown by medical gentlemen, upon real data, that it was unhealthy, I should do everything in my power to get them to a more healthy place; but I know that this chest disease is a terrible disease wherever it breaks out. I have seen them die on the Murray in large numbers. They are as much affected by it on the Murray as they are on Coranderrk.

5210. *By the Board.*—Would you approve of inducing or encouraging the half-castes to go out to service?—If they could be got into choice families that would take care of them. There is one now in service that I got out, a half-caste girl. I had made arrangements, just prior to my leaving, for another half-caste girl to get into another family, and the Board would not allow her to go.

5211. That would apply more to girls because they require more protection than men, but with the half-caste men, do you think they are able to cope with the white men?—Not those that have been reared in the camp, any more than the pure aboriginal.

5212. I notice that you recommend sending those that could work and would not work away altogether—supposing you met with a half-caste that would not work, what would you do?—I think they ought to be made work or be sent away. The remuneration is not such a consideration to them, it is the being able to draw them out to work. I think they have wrought worse since they were paid wages than ever they did before.

5213. Have you any idea if they understand the difference between the different denominations?—Some of them do.

5214. Have they any desire to be brought up under one denomination more than another?—Decidedly—they call themselves Scotchmen—that is their idea.

5215. When you read to them and prayed with them it would be in the Presbyterian form?—Yes, always.

5216. They seemed satisfied with that?—Yes.

5217. Have you any reason to believe they are dissatisfied with the mode of conducting the service under the Church of England?—They say so, they do not like it. One said, “Mr. Green knows our inside—he speaks inside to us.”

5218. Meaning you understood them better?—Yes, exactly.

The witness withdrew.

Captain A. M. A. Page sworn and further examined.

5219. There was something in the accounts we could not understand the last time you were examined. Will you be kind enough to explain how it happened that there was a considerable amount paid more than there ought to be?—The matron was entered at £69 14s. 2d.—she got £1 a week, and in 1877, on the 4th of July she was paid from the 28th February to the 30th of June, which comes to £17 11s. 5d.

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5220. Was she paid in full all that was due to her?—All that was due up to that time, the 30th of June.

5221. This is from the 1st of July 1877 to the 30th of June 1878?—You can only pay the people when they come for their wages.

5222. Do you not pay regularly?—We pay only when they send in their accounts.

5223. There is nothing to indicate that the money was owing before the 1st July—from the 1st July to the 30th June, “Matron £69 14s. 2d.” You stated that a certain amount was paid to a certain person, up to the 30th June 1877. Between that and the 30th June 1878 there can only be twelve months, and yet on the face of this account it states fifteen months?—On the 5th October she was paid from the 1st July to the 30th September. On January 3rd she was paid from the 1st October to the 31st December. On May 2nd she was paid from the 1st January to the 30th April; and on the 3rd of July from the 1st May to the 30th of June.

5224. What was the salary?—One pound a week. Where the mistake has come is that fifteen months have been put down where it ought to be sixteen—there is a clerical error. I say that £69 14s. 2d. is right.

5225. Not for fifteen months?—That is a clerical error, but the amount is right.

5226. Under this system you might put down eighteen months, and we should not be able to trace it out. The matron was paid, up to the 30th June 1877, £21 10s.?—Yes, but she was not paid till the 3rd of July. We cannot force them to take their money.

5227. Did they ever object to take it?—We never asked them; when the accounts came in they were passed.

5228. Have you anything to show how the accounts were formerly paid; that is, previous to February 1877. In the year before I find £142 9s. 6d. for the master and matron, at Coranderrk, from 1st July to 30th June?—It says here “Amount expended,” not what they might have had, but what was actually paid to them during that year.

5229. Then the matron, from 1879 to 1880, gets £50, that is a few shillings less than she got the year before?—Sarah Halliday got £52 a year. In the middle of the year Mrs. Strickland came on at £50. If she did not take the whole of her salary that year, it would make it look strange again.

5230. In your own salary there are fifteen months in one report and thirteen months in the next. It is impossible that can be correct. In thirteenth report, for 1876, the inspector received, during the six months from January to June, £171 4s. 8d.?—That is in 1876. On May 5th, John Green was paid £75 in payment of wages from 1st September to 30th November 1875; why he had not been paid before I do not know, but that shows how people left their money over; he was getting £300 a year. On the 31st March, Mr. Ogilvie was paid at the rate of £300 from the 1st to the 14th of December, £11 5s. 9d. On the 21st April, he was paid from the 15th December to the 29th February at the rate of £400 a year, £84 18s. 11d., making a total of £171 4s. 8d.

5231. When was he paid up to?—29th February in that payment. It continues at £400, and on July 1st he was paid from March 1st to May 31st, £100.

Captain
A. M. A. Page,
continued,
8th Dec. 1881.

5232. When did he leave?—He left in 1877, I think.

5233. What month?—10th May 1877.

5234. Does your engagement date from the 10th May?—From the 11th May 1877. On August 5th he was paid again from June 1st to July 31st, £66 13s. 4d. On September 13th, from August 1st to 31st, £33 6s. 8d.; October 5th, September 1st to 30th, £33 6s. 8d.; November 2nd, October 1st to 31st, £33 6s. 8d.; December 8th, November 1st to 30th, £33 6s. 8d.; January 6th, December 1st to 31st, £33 6s. 8d.; from December to May 10th, at per month £33 6s. 8d., for every one except the last one, which was £10 15s.—that comes to £477 8s. 4d. Then comes in on June 6th, I was paid from May 11th to 31st, £22 11s. 8d., making the total £500.

5235. You have now just dropped Mr. Ogilvie's and begun your own?—I came in for about three weeks.

5236. You were paid from the 10th May to the end of June when you first took office. When Mr. Ogilvie went out you came in, and you were paid up to the 30th June. The 31st May it comes to £500.

5237. Your payment for May and June does not appear here?—That is for 1876; I have nothing to do with that.

5238. From 11th May 1877 to 30th June 1878 is only thirteen months and a-half; you have got it fifteen months. This account shows the amount voted for the aborigines inspector, £177 4s. 8d.? That is up to the end of February. He has only been paid to the 29th of February.

5239. It seems an extraordinary thing that a gentleman about to resign his position should have his salary increased for the last three or four months?—His salary was £300 for the few days he was up at Coranderrk—for fourteen days he had £300 a year, after that he had £400.

5240. You commenced with £400?—Yes.

5241. And have now £500?—Yes.

5242. In the Fifteenth Report there are—"General Inspector and Secretary (including travelling allowance), £487 10s.;" above that, "Travelling expenses, moving aborigines, and inspecting stations, £129 10s." Can you explain that?—The travelling expenses includes all travelling expenses of the Board, and their expenses going up to the stations. Not long ago I paid £30 to Robertson and Wagner for travelling.

5243. Do you get any allowance for travelling?—No.

5244. Who would get this?—I could not tell without looking out the whole thing. Travelling expenses in connection with Coranderrk was £32 17s. 9d.

5245. Are the passes you send to the coaches for the aborigines included in that?—Yes.

5246. Do you get anything when you go to Coranderrk?—Not a penny.

5247. Why is the word "inspecting" used?—If a member of the Board goes up he gets his expenses.

5248. Then I would infer that they are getting paid for that. It would be much better to have the accounts show travelling expenses. Are they paid their travelling expenses or paid for loss of time?—No, simply what it cost them for travelling expenses.

5249. Do they go by buggy and pair?—Not always.

5250. What I aim at is this: I protest that that Board has no business to pay official visits; it is all honorary work?—The members sometimes go round to see the stations.

5251. There is another item—"General Inspector and Secretary, including travelling allowance"?—There is no travelling allowance.

5252. It is here?—Mr. Ogilvie pointed that out to me. I put it in because I have to pay my travelling expenses. He said, "What is the meaning of that?" I said, "It includes my travelling expenses." He said, "You should not put that in, because you do not get any."

5253. Then it is misleading?—Yes.

5254. Then that £87 10s. was deducted, as you were only getting £400 a year, and no travelling expenses were allowed?—On the 11th May I was appointed at £400 a year. On the 1st October 1877 I took over the accounts and everything connected with the Board, and was told I could have the same, as the other clerk got £100 a year. I said I would take £75 and find my own clerk. I kept that up till January 1879, when I pointed out I did not think I should have to pay my own clerk when I had more work than I expected, so they made it up to £500.

5255. You still have clerical assistance?—I have £25 for clerical assistance.

5256. How is it £87 if you only received £75?—I could not say at the moment.

5257. Could you not have read up a short statement like this?—My salary was £475 and £500. For six months I was at £475, and six months at £500.

5258. Are you not engaged by the year at a stated salary?—I believe so.

5259. You heard me asking Mr. Curr about the rent of your offices?—Yes.

5260. Can you tell us how it was after such a length of occupancy without rent that the last three years we should be charged rent?—I do not think they have been there many years.

5261. They have been there for a number of years?—I suppose the Acclimatisation Society did not feel inclined to pay all the rent. When I went there they were paying rent.

5262. There was no charge for the room in the Mining office?—No.

5363. Why did they not continue that?—I believe the members did not care to come up here.

5264. It is a curious discrepancy that, in 1878-9, the rent was £24 13s. 0d.; 1879-80, £14 5s. 0d.?—The £14 5s. 0d. ought not to be. I did not pay the rent I am supposed to pay to Mr. Le Souef. He has to pay to other people. We owe six months' rent of that year.

5265. Those insurances, where are they—are they at Coranderrk?—The buildings at Coranderrk.

5266. Aboriginal weapons, £4 2s. 6d., whom are they for?—They were bought for the Exhibition from the Board. They thought they ought to get some of the old weapons if they could.

5267. You heard me ask Mr. Curr about the supply of brandy and wine; during the last three years Coranderrk has been supplied, but I find no record of it before. Do you think it advisable to go on supplying those things? As it was not found necessary before, why have it done now? Is it done at the suggestion or request of the doctor?—The thing was ordered by the doctor. We have had to send up porter. I do not myself think it is a good thing, because, the moment any spirits or wine go up, the place is rushed; I have to send them up in a case marked something else, so they shall not know.

5268. Is there much there at present?—I never send up much: about two gallons of brandy and a case of wine.
5269. Have you sent up any since we were there?—Yes; they were nearly out then. They can always get it at Healesville, although it is not good to encourage that sort of thing.
5270. What do they use the brandy for?—Stomach-ache, I think.
5271. Is it only used by the blacks?—Who else could use it?
5272. Did you ever have any?—Never tasted a drop up there in my life. I have never seen a drop there since Mr. Strickland has been there.
5273. To what amount is the property at Coranderrk insured?—About £800, I think.
5274. At what percentage?—It depends; some of the buildings more than others. What I got the other day was £1 a hundred.
5275. Is Coranderrk invested in the names of trustees, as recommended in the time of the Royal Commission?—I never heard of it. I do not think it is because it was withdrawn as a reserve the other day altogether.
5276. When you go up there, do you systematically go round the station?—Round the boundaries? No, certainly not. It is not much use going into scrubby land.
5277. Do you go round with Mrs. Strickland into the cottages?—Never. When I go, I go by myself.
5278. Would it not be better to have a lady with you?—No.
5279. Are you married?—Yes.
5280. Would it not be better to have a lady with you?—Then it would be said, "What is the use of going round with her?"
5281. Are there any cases of affliction at the present time—any deaf or dumb or nearly blind?—I think Sanky's wife is about the worst of any, and Willie Hamilton.
5282. What is wrong with him?—His eye is wrong.
5283. Did he ask for a pass to come to town for surgical aid?—No, he did not.
5284. I had a letter from him saying he did, and Mr. Strickland would not give it to him?—I cannot believe that, for this reason—that a fortnight ago Mr. Strickland wrote down to me saying that Hamilton wanted to come down and see the doctor. I wrote by return of post to Doctor Elms, saying is there any necessity. He wrote back saying it might please all parties to let him come down. I got him down. It is not likely he can get much good, because he was born so. He has been to Doctor Miller.
5285. When did he come?—Two or three days ago. The man is in town now.
5286. My attention was called to it. I suggested that he should come down to Doctor Bowen?—He is attending the hospital just now.
5287. Is he in the Melbourne Hospital?—No, he is an out patient.
5288. Are there any other cases—is that the only case of bad eyes?—I think that is the only case, except Punch's child.
5289. My attention was drawn to one little child who was likely to lose both its eyes; have you not seen or heard of that?—No. I have not heard of that. I think Doctor Elms would have let me know if there had been any occasion for medical advice.
5290. Are there any deaf and dumb children?—I never saw any.
5291. There is one there. I saw the child and advised the mother to get it into the Deaf and Dumb Hospital?—Are you certain it is deaf and dumb?
5292. Yes?—What is its age?
5293. Three or four years. There are two cases of confinement expected shortly, have you made any provision?—There are two or three women midwives there. They get paid, and if the doctor is wanted he is brought.
5294. Are the half-caste women paid for attending as midwives?—Yes.
5295. Does that account for Mrs. Dunolly's case being such a bad case?—I never heard of it. The doctor knows more about it than I do. I cannot give advice to the doctor.
5296. The copper was recommended in 1869, why was it only sent up a few months ago?—I never heard of its being recommended in 1869.
5297. Why was it only sent up a short time ago?—It is a sort of thing that came into my head. I thought they wanted it and I had a place built.
5298. Was it the result of the deputation to Mr. Berry?—Most certainly not. I got my instructions about building before the deputation went to Mr. Berry.
5299. The contractor said the buildings were all put up during the last eight months?—Yes; but the instructions were given to me before we ever heard of the deputation.
5300. There was a deputation prior to that?—No, not prior to that, except two years ago. There was no reference to this deputation.
5301. Why are they not allowed to keep fowls and bees—Mr. Smyth recommended that long ago?—They are not objected to, but if you have seeds about, fowls will not do.
5302. They have no gardens?—Then they can keep fowls. They have geese.
5303. About geese—one of the men complaining you sold his geese, and did not pay him for them?—He tells an untruth; he got paid for them.
5304. Who ordered them to be sold off?—I ordered them to be sold; they had to be sold or their throats would have been cut; our crops would have been destroyed. I told him over and over again they would have to be sold or kept shut up. I told Mr. Strickland to sell them.
5305. Would it not have been better to tell the man in a kind way?—I did speak to him in a kind way.
5306. He was away when they were sold?—I do not know about that.
5307. Is it not cruel to have the natives sleeping on rushes?—I do not know; it depends upon what is under the rushes.
5308. In the orphan children's bedroom we saw rushes—Mr. Cameron asked the girl if she was sure it was rushes, and she pulled the tick open to convince him?—They had rushes to fill their beds, because there was not straw for them. Harris made a statement about that the other day, which is not true.

Captain
A. M. A. Page,
continued,
8th Dec. 1881.

5309. You were not aware they were sleeping on rushes?—I was not aware of that.

5310. Do you think nothing could be done to keep down the bugs—we saw them running about in the daytime?—It is very difficult to get rid of them when they once get into a place.

5311. Has Dr. Elms complained to you that too many interfere with the medicine in his absence, that the room is untidy, and the bottles uncorked?—No, not on the last occasion. A long time ago we sent up a large quantity of medicine at his request. I remember his saying that nothing should be kept in that room except medicines.

5312. We found the bottles uncorked, and he told us he complained to you about it?—No, he did not.

5313. It was a miserable dirty room, used as a harness room as well?—One person cannot be always there. It was not as if the people came at regular hours; they come at all hours, even in the middle of the night.

5314. Have you a farm of your own?—I object to the question, but I will answer it. I have a farm of my own.

5315. Have you a partner?—I decline to answer the question.

5316. Is it true that Mr. Le Soeuf is a partner of yours?—I decline to answer that question.

5317. How many calves did you brand last year at Coranderrk?—I would have to go and look at the return book to find out that.

5318. When Mr. Ogilvie was about to leave did they advertise for a successor?—I do not know.

5319. How did you learn there was a vacancy?—I saw Mr. Ogilvie.

5320. I suppose there was no advertising?—I do not know at all.

5321. You applied and got it?—Others applied too.

5322. You cannot answer the question about the calves?—I have not got the return in.

5323. As a trustee is it not your duty to have the run fenced in?—As a trustee I do not think I am bound to do it. I am not a trustee over them however.

5324. Do you think it is right to allow Mr. Strickland's daughters to interfere with the serving out of rations to the aborigines?—I think it is very kind of them.

5325. The blacks do not like it—they consider they have no business to interfere with it?—I do not see how they could object to it. It is kindness of them to assist their mother.

5326. Are you aware there are forty-four unbaptized children there?—I have heard that.

5327. Do you believe it is correct?—I believe it is incorrect. I believe there are more than that.

5328. From the evidence you heard at Healesville are you satisfied that Mr. Strickland has been guilty of disposing of Government property without your authority?—There is not the least doubt from the evidence that he disposed of the wheels first of all. He had no authority to do it, but at the same time I do not think it was a very serious thing. I think it was justifiable on his part to do, if he saw the things going to ruin, to get rid of them.

5329. Did you say to Mr. Strickland that the 10s. sent to Wandon was Government money?—No.

5330. Then what right had he to withhold it?—He did not withhold it. He denied that most distinctly. I think he was quite right in holding it for a bit. If Wandon was paid money for finding cattle he would not put cattle off the run; he would put them in a corner, and wait for the reward.

5331. There are some items in these invoices which I do not think belong to the blacks, because they are material which I have never seen lubras wear. I have never seen lubras wear Russell cord dresses at 13s. 6d. each. I do not think lubras dress so stylish as that. Did you order that?—I must have ordered it if it is there.

5332. The clothes are not branded; anybody could use them. Have you, yourself, seen anything of the kind on a lubra up there?—I can find out. Sometimes I send up a dress to a woman who has lost her husband.

5333. They showed us a very inferior material, worn by a woman who was in mourning?—The black wincey was a good wincey.

5334. Here is a persian cord dress, at £1 8s. 8d., another dress that ladies wear; that is a separate invoice. It is to Captain Page, Temple Court, for the Coranderrk Aboriginal Station; perhaps that was a present you were sending up?—Whom to?

5335. I do not know whom to; it seems a great deal too good to send to a black woman?—Sometimes they are too good, and sometimes too bad, it seems.

5336. Here are ladies' linen collars, 5s. 9d.; ladies' sets, 12s. 9d.; two cambric handkerchiefs, 6s.?—I cannot go into that without my own accounts. If I see the signature of Mr. Strickland as having received them, I could tell more about it. That is 1878; I can hardly go back three years.

5337. Here is curtain net, 17s. 6d., for bed hangings; I did not see any there with bed hangings; do they use net?—I cannot remember what things go up a long way back like that.

5338. Whom were the hats for—ladies' leghorn hats?—I cannot remember; sometimes I get some hats that are cheap now, but have been dear, and then they would most likely put them as "Ladies."

5339. Here is a dress, persian cord, £2 0s. 10d.; and a figured lustre, 28 yards, at 1s. 5½d., either of which any lady could wear. Here is another black lustre?—It must have been for some of those people who have lost their husbands.

5340. Is there any possibility of tracing to whom those went?—Yes.

5341. Can you trace the majority of those things?—I can trace everything.

5342. You told us you had no check?—I did not say I had no check; I have a monthly return for receipt of the goods.

5343. There is a black lustre, 12 yards, 15s. 6d.; another black lustre, 20 yards, at 1s. 3½d., £1 5s. 10d.?—There will be no trouble in getting the names of all the people who received them.

5344. Are those poor blacks provided with standing counsel, in cases of emergency, when they are dragged to the police court?—Not in all cases.

5345. In cases of emergency?—I think they would have it in cases of emergency.

5346. In any case, should not some representative of the Board go and stand on behalf of the black?—They are dealt with very leniently.

5347. Do you send in every year a detail of what you require?—Yes, and a great farce it is.

5348. What time do you send them?—About April.

5349. That contains all you want?—Yes, but we cannot tell what we want exactly. [*The witness handed in the following letters*]:—

Captain
A. M. A. Page,
continued,
8th Dec. 1881.

“Aboriginal Station, Lake Hindmarsh, June 6th, 1881.

“Captain Page, Gen. Inspector of Aborigines, Melbourne.

“Sir,—Having examined the goods sent up for the blacks, I beg to report on them as follows:—

“Blankets.—Good quality, blacks much pleased with them. Whole lot distributed.

“Dress Materials.—Measurement correct, quality good, prices fair. Mrs. Kramer, having examined the materials, endorses the remarks in reference to price and quality.

“Clothes.—Trousers appear to be of excellent quality and well assorted. The same remark applies to the shirts, which appear to be softer and better in quality than those supplied hitherto. Serge shirts all distributed. Blacks much gratified and pleased with them.

“Billies.—Assortment incomplete, there being none fit in size for small families and single persons.

“Tomahawks.—Too soft.

“The whole is, by common consent, declared to be very good and useful, except in the points referred to above; and I take this opportunity to cordially thank the Board, on behalf of the blacks, for their kind liberality to them.—I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant, C. W. KRAMER.”

“Ramahyuck, May 18, 1881.

“Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the blankets and articles of clothing for the aborigines under my care have arrived here in good order and condition, and I herewith send you the duly signed accounts. I am happy to inform you that the whole of the goods are of very good and most suitable quality, and give great satisfaction to the natives, who wish me to convey their best thanks to the Board and the Government, as well as to yourself, for the kind care bestowed upon them and the supply given to them. I also beg to express my best thanks to yourself and the Board. I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant, F. A. HAGENAUER.—Capt. A. M. A. Page, Insp. Gen. Ab., Melbourne.”

“Lake Tyers, 20th June 1881.

“Dear Sir,—I herewith forward the accounts of Messrs. Banks and Co., and Messrs. McEwan and Co. I may state that the drapery goods are all of good quality. The blue shirts are of the same kind which were sent last year, and which were so much appreciated by the blacks; their being made to open in front is a great improvement. All the rest of the goods are suitable as to quality, &c. The goods from Messrs. McEwan and Co. are of excellent quality. I may particularly mention the hoes for the cutting grass. They are a very handy tool, light enough for a boy to use, and yet can be used by a man with effect. I may say that already good work has been done by them among the tussocks of cutting grass. The case of wine and brandy, I should think, judging from the brands, is of good quality. With thanks, on behalf of the blacks, for the goods, I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, JOHN HOLMES.—Captain A. M. A. Page, General-Inspector, &c., C.B.P.A.”

“Neuarcurr, Apsley, 2nd April 1881.

“Dear Sir,—The goods for aboriginals arrived here on Wednesday last, 30th March. I enclose samples of tea and sugar as requested by you. I have examined the blankets and clothes; they are all really good and substantial articles. I am having a good house put up with two rooms, one room 16 x 12, and the other 12 x 12, both having fireplaces, so they should be comfortable. I have lately taken into my employment a young blackfellow, called John Pannican. I find him in most respects as good as any white man. There are also two other blacks here, Lake Billy and Punch. As there are four continually here others are sure to keep coming and going. I received your letter concerning the census, asking me to give help to the sub-enumerators. I shall be happy to do all I can. I did not get your letter until yesterday, Friday, and as my little girl has just met with a bad accident, I shall be unable to take any active part, but by enquiry from the other blacks can give a return of all living in the shire of Kowree. Yours truly, A. A. COWELL. — Page, Esq.”

“Aboriginal Station, Purnim, 16th June 1881.

“Sir,—I have the honor to inform you that the clothing, blankets, &c., for the aborigines at this station have been received in good order, and everything correct according to invoice. According to request, I beg to report that the quality of the whole is good, and the recipients of them are exceedingly thankful to you for interesting yourself so much for their comfort. I find myself short of fifteen or sixteen blankets, and six serge shirts, a number of old people having recently arrived at the station, some from Skipton and Camperdown; also two from Coranderrk, named Cunningham Jack, and his old wife Maria; and several from around the Warrnambool district, who do not usually participate in the annual distribution. I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient servant, WILLIAM GOODALL.—A. M. A. Page, Esq., General-Inspector P.B.P.A.”

Mrs. Bon handed in the following letter from Harris:—

“Coranderrk, 28th November 1881.

“Taking up the *Argus* I saw Cap. Page’s statement that I was authorized to get white labor last year, which I was not. I have been authorized to do so this year through Mr. Strickland. Remain yours, THOMAS HARRIS.”

The witness withdrew.

Adjourned.

By Authority: JOHN FERRES, Government Printer, Melbourne.

CORANDERRK.