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From Col. Sir G. ...
... 26th Nov. 1837
... that this measure
of some minor details
with the ...

Regulations Proposed for the formation of an Aboriginal Police Corps

Melbourne

25th October 1837

In forming a body of Aboriginal
Black, under European Superintendents it is
wished to combine the desirable objects of
making them useful to society of gradually
weaning them from their native habits and
prejudices, of habituating them to civilized
customs; and from thence if possible to
place them upon higher grades of temporal
and religious knowledge. - It would be
impossible to accomplish these objects by
any abrupt means or sudden change from
their present condition and it is therefore
thought the most effectual method will be
to form some of the Natives into a Police
Corps, as in that situation they will not
be tied to any definite labour or irksome
course of employment, they will it is hoped,
whilst they are enjoying a change of scene,
and occupation, and the occasional recrea-
tion of hunting, be under proper management
imperceptibly to themselves, acquiring the
change which is desired. - Some definite
number of natives shall be with the view
collected

and placed under the immediate guidance of
 a who will receive all instructions
 from the Police Magistrate at Melbourne,
 and to whom he will make stated, periodic
 reports, and also immediate reports of
 any unusual occurrence - The men
 shall be selected from one tribe and
 a position shall be chosen in their
 own country to be approved of by themselves,
 but which must not exceed a days walk
 from the Saxon, this place shall be their
 head quarters where they will be instructed
 to build themselves comfortable huts, having
 in the first instance, the assistance of
 some European workmen - each man
 with a family shall have a separate
 hut, and the single men shall be
 together in one hut; none but those men
 who belong to the Corps, with their
 wives and children shall be allowed
 to inhabit this station, but merely
 be permitted to make occasional visits
 when they are established in their village
 they may employ some of their time in
 making gardens or other improvements -
 but nothing in the shape of labour is to
 be forced upon them, and only encouraged

to it by convincing them of the advantage that will arise to themselves when not required for any Police Duty, the main body of the Corps will remain at the station, where they will be away from any improper interference, or from contracting habits of intemperance -

Two of the men will be always with the Police Magistrate, they shall have a hut close to his residence, and attend upon him to execute any duty he may require of them. They will be changed in rotation once every month, or oftener if found necessary - When the services of the corps are required by the Police Magistrate he will communicate with the by means of one of the two orderlies, the Corps must therefore never be far away from the station and there must always be a sufficient number left to take charge of it, and also to direct where the others are to be found if required

The services of the corps may in a short time be made available in many useful ways, in preserving the Peace and good order of the District, in apprehending runaways, and preventing the Aborigines committing

committing any degradations on the white population, or if such should be the case in discovering in apprehending the offenders. The must teach them how they are to conduct themselves on these occasions by previous training, and when upon actual duty to encourage them to emulate each other in activity and intelligence, they will occasionally be sent to perambulate the district to gain information on any points that may be required, to preserve the peace and check irregularities.

The men forming the Corps, must by judicious means be taught to give up their native habits, they should be led to believe that belonging to the Police, places them in a very superior situation and that all the Barbarous practices of their country, are unworthy of their participating in, it will probably be some time before their habits are entirely given up, but the attempt must be made gradually, the most likely means is perhaps to keep the men of the Corps quite distinct from all others, one of the

The first customs which should be attempted to be broken through is that of fighting in the quarrels of one tribe against another. This of course not intended they should discontinue those customs which are useful, as that of tracing footsteps. &c - &c &c In order to make up for the loss of their native occupations, they must be taught others when not otherwise employed, as well as for recreation as to prevent their having much idle time, which might induce them to return to those habits we wish to break up, and it should be endeavoured to select such amusements as may, whilst they please, be turned to use, as shooting at a mark, riding, performing some military exercise, they may also under the controul of the be allowed to hunt or fish - At the same time that the men of this corps are taught to consider themselves superior to the other blacks, they must be made to discriminate between the different classes of white people showing respect to the upper and well conducted, and prevented associating with those who

who may instruct them in vicious & disorderly habits - Rations will be issued them daily according to the annexed scale, and care must be taken by the

that this is done with the greatest exactness, he will keep a book for the purpose of entering the quantity issued each day, with the names of the men receiving them, a requisition will be made out every fortnight for the rations which will be brought to the Police Magistrate for his approval -

The will keep a Journal in which he will note all transactions relating to the Corps, and also any particular occurrence that may come under his notice, in the district generally - A copy of the Journal is to be sent to the Police Magistrate at the end of each month. A man is to be appointed in rotation as cook, who is to be instructed to prepare the rations according to the European mode, the men must sit down to their meals with regularity they will have all necessary utensils which they must always use, and be made blank care of.

Their

Their suits must always be kept clean, they must also at all times be cleanly in their persons -

Uniforms will be appointed for the Corps, and if the men can be made to feel a pride in it, it will not only cause them to take care of it, but will be another instrument to attach them to the service - Should any of these

men get sick they must at once be sent to the Police Magistrate who will have them placed in the hut near his house, & will acquaint the Colonial Surgeon, that he may attend them.

If any of these men after a time should become settled and attached to European habits, they may be removed to the Shipwreck Station where they will be instructed in the duties and acquirements of Civilized life -

Signed M. Sons Dale
Police Magistrate

Regulations proposed
for the formation of an
Aboriginal Police Corps

By W. Lonsdale
Police Magistrate
Melbourne
3 Dec 1887

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