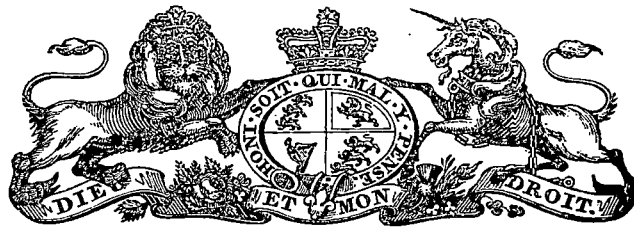


(No. 92.)



1890.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF STOCK:

REPORT FOR 1889.

Presented to both Houses of Parliament by His Excellency's Command.



Office of Inspector of Stock, Hobart, 30th June, 1890.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish my Report under "The Stock Act" for the past year.

This is the first opportunity I have had of making a Report under the above Act, and in doing so consider the Colony is to be congratulated upon having at last succeeded in erasing from its Statutes the objectionable name of "Scab Act."

The result of the past Session of Parliament enabled me to reorganise the Staff of Inspectors, and make provision to raise funds upon sheep, cattle, and horses, so that an efficient staff of officers could be employed to supervise and carry out the provisions of "The Stock Act" and "The Rabbits Destruction Act."

Ten Inspectors were appointed by the Government under "The Stock Act;" these gentlemen's salaries are provided for by the payment into the Stock Act Fund of one half-penny per head per sheep, and two-pence per head upon horses and cattle. In my Report under "The Rabbit Act" I have notified to you the names of the gentlemen appointed, and the arrangement of Districts in which they perform their duties.

I have the pleasure to intimate to you that the Colony still remains free from Scab Disease.

The information supplied last year apprised you of the fact that I had been using every legitimate means to bring about the admission of Tasmanian stud sheep into the adjoining Colonies without being subject to dipping or quarantine. With the concurrence and assistance of the Government, I succeeded in bringing about the Australasian Stock Conference, which was held in Melbourne on the 1st November, 1889.

An important resolution upon the interchange of Australasian sheep was carried. The particulars, with motion beneath, and amendment, will show the manner in which representatives from each Colony recorded their votes:—

INTERCHANGE OF AUSTRALASIAN SHEEP.

Mr. *Tabart* moved: "That the dipping of sea-borne sheep between clean Colonies be dispensed with under the following conditions:—(1) That all sheep exported from clean Colonies shall carry an Inspector's certificate of cleanliness; also certificate from owner that such sheep were bred in the Colony from whence exported. (2) That the captain of the vessel upon which such sheep are shipped shall certify that the vessel has not within the last preceding twelve months traded or carried sheep except to or from clean Colonies. (3) That the Colony from which such sheep are shipped or exported prohibits the importation of sheep or skins thereof from any Colony wherein scab exists or has existed within the last preceding two years."

Mr. *Tolson* moved as an amendment: "That it is not expedient to relax the quarantine regulations to the extent suggested by the delegate from Tasmania, but that all sheep coming from free Colonies be subjected to a quarantine to consist of one dipping in the usual manner."

The *Chairman* put the amendment, which was lost on the following voting:—For—New Zealand, 1; Queensland, 3; New South Wales, 2; total, 6. Against—Tasmania, 3; Victoria, 3; South Australia, 3; New Zealand, 2; New South Wales, 1; total, 12.

Mr. *Tabart's* motion was declared carried.

The effect so far has been that South Australia and Tasmania have relaxed their laws, and now admit sheep from clean Colonies without dipping or quarantine, upon production of the necessary certificates.

New South Wales has partially recognised the carrying of this motion by admitting Tasmanian stud sheep without dipping or quarantine when being forwarded to the annual stud sales held in Sydney, but compel all intermediate lots to be dipped.

The absurdity of this obstructive action will be patent to those who have any knowledge of scab disease when I inform you that the New South Wales authorities themselves remark as follows:

"We wish it to be understood that we do not for a moment even suspect that there is any scab in the Colony from which the sheep come, but only because there is some slight danger of infection being carried into the vessels by which they are conveyed."

The ships that carry the last-mentioned description of sheep are treated in precisely the same manner as those going to the annual sales, the same certificates are issued, and the sheep are accompanied by a person to see to their safety in nearly all cases. The sheep are drawn from paddocks wherein sheep that have gone or are going to the annual sales are grazing.

The Queensland Government have not taken any action upon the Resolution.

The Victorian Government, as you are aware, decline to alter the existing law, notwithstanding their expressed desire to assist Tasmania in abolishing the dipping between clean colonies, and have failed to recognise the unanimous vote recorded by the Victorian representatives at the Stock Conference.

While upon this subject, I cannot but remark that the action adopted by New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland is a deliberate breach of faith, seeing that South Australia and Tasmania have adopted the Resolutions passed by a majority, and are admitting sheep from the above clean colonies without dipping or quarantine.

I am at a loss to understand what benefit is in future likely to accrue from the meeting of any Australasian Stock Conference when representatives attending are, previously to the consideration of some important question, instructed in what direction their votes are to be recorded. The Conference lately held fully bears out these remarks.

I shall, when a meeting of the next Stock Conference is mooted, recommend the Tasmanian Government not to be represented unless some undertaking is given that the resolutions passed by the majority shall receive the assent of the different Governments and become law.

The export of stud sheep still maintains its prominence as a large and growing industry, which, when the Resolutions of the Stock Conference are carried into effect, will be greatly increased.

I anticipate better sales will result when sheep are submitted in Sydney this season, from the fact that sheep going to annual sales will not be subject to dipping as heretofore. What is urgently desired is that intermediate lots be not dipped, as this class of sheep sold privately for flock purposes will not bear the expense of 3s. 6d. per head for dipping and 1s. per head per night for storage, which is an indirect loss to the breeder, and after the payment of freight leaves very little return for breeding pure sheep for the improvement of flock.

The following table will show the export trade in stud sheep to the adjoining colonies since 1870 up to 30th June of the present year, with the Custom House value thereon :—

Year.	Number.	Value.	Year.	Number.	Value.	Year.	Number.	Value.
		£			£			£
1870.....	807	4115	1877	1303	10,103	1884	3234	60,758
1871.....	998	4660	1878	651	8485	1885	2825	51,325
1872.....	2433	15,500	1879	1496	47,259	1886	2207	32,689
1873.....	2586	15,547	1880	—	—	1887	4005	54,337
1874.....	1997	20,895	1881	1306	38,305	1888	4140	56,045
1875.....	1673	23,414	1882	1937	34,012	1889	4660	60,472
1876.....	1403	18,157	1883	2913	62,275			

One of the most important features in my Report is the marked increase in the number of sheep and cattle; this I attribute to the good season in 1889, the fall of lambs being considerably above the average percentage of past seasons.

The abundance of grass was such that the presence of rabbits was not felt, but now that pastures are not so luxuriant their ravages are easily observable.

I beg to call your attention to Appendix B, "Return of Stock slaughtered during the year 1889." This shows a favourable comparison with that furnished for the preceding year. The table indicates an increase of Colonial cattle slaughtered of 1505 head, and a decrease of imported cattle of 679 head.

Colonial sheep and lambs show an increase of 2821 head, and a decrease of imported of 2531 head. This is a matter for congratulation, but still the number of imported cattle for the year stands

at 2618 head, and sheep at 43,786. This, of course, does not represent the total importation of sheep and lambs, as numbers are purchased for country consumption of which no record is obtainable; still the Customs report (Appendix D) gives the total number imported for the past 12 months, with the value, which represents capital to the amount of £89,788.

It is to be deplored that the colony cannot produce sufficient meat for its own consumption, instead of being obliged annually to purchase from the adjoining colonies so large a quantity of fat stock as that supplied to Tasmania, thus furnishing money to Victoria and New South Wales that should be circulated in Tasmania.

The question might fairly be asked, What are the reasons for our requiring to import so large a quantity of fat stock, which has increased in value since 1878 from £23,392 to £110,907 in 1888?

The decreased percentage of lambs has compelled stockowners to retain surplus stock upon their estates, so that the annual clip of wool might be maintained; hence it is that those who usually had this class of stock to dispose of are obliged to retain, instead of placing them upon the market for purchase by numerous small holders for fattening upon stubble land, and ultimately being sold as fat stock for consumption.

Bad seasons have also had a very injurious effect upon the increase of sheep. I could name properties whereon the decrease of sheep from this cause has been most disastrous. Another cause of decrease of sheep is the increase of rabbits, as those practically acquainted with the habits of this pest know to their cost; they will take all the succulent and nutritious grasses and herbs, hence the presence of the pest in numbers result in small percentage of lambs and no fat stock. To these reasons I chiefly assign the inability of stockowners to supply local demands.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.

Subsequent to furnishing my Report under the Stock Act, I have the honor to inform you that the Victorian Government have consented to admit sheep from any of the Australian Colonies or New Zealand without being quarantined or dipped, provided a certificate be produced from the Chief Inspector of Stock for the colony from whence the sheep are brought that scab has not existed in the said colony for the preceding two years, and that the importation of sheep and sheepskins from a colony in which scab exists is prohibited, also a certificate from the master, certifying that the vessel carrying the sheep has not been in any port in any colony in which scab exists during the preceding six months.

Regulations will shortly be issued whereby all Tasmanian sheep will be admitted into New South Wales without being subject to dipping, provided that consignments are forwarded by special vessels, and are accompanied by the owner or his servant in charge.

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

30th July, 1890.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN showing the Number of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses depastured in each District in the Colony for the Year 1890.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Horses.</i>
Bothwell	145,371	5053	314
Brighton	18,453	1316	534
Campbell Town.....	120,632	3224	329
Clarence	12,623	655	290
Deloraine.....	25,836	8200	1251
Evandale.....	110,292	4778	739
Fingal	110,628	7064	552
George Town	29,885	2115	268
Glenorchy	507	108	58
Glamorgan.....	53,061	1397	296
Green Ponds.....	30,033	1162	269
Hamilton.....	113,783	7204	593
Hobart and Kingborough	4808	664	126
Horton.....	12,697	7328	992
Huon.....	3535	1806	355
Longford	122,747	4723	1637
New Norfolk.....	22,877	2598	597
Oatlands.....	153,809	5594	847
Port Sorell	17,170	9170	2384
Richmond	42,358	1514	458
Ross.....	87,529	1815	97
Selby	53,711	4851	833
Spring Bay	35,666	1288	180
Sorell	39,470	3004	679
Westbury.....	42,853	4159	1262
Great Lake	21,246	191	6
Ringarooma and Portland.....	17,234	4648	479
TOTAL	1,448,814	96,629	16,425

APPENDIX B.

RETURN of Stock slaughtered during the Year 1889.

AT HOBART.		AT LAUNCESTON.	
<i>Cattle—</i>		<i>Cattle—</i>	
Colonial	2753	Colonial	3425
Imported	2284	Imported	334
<i>Sheep—</i>		<i>Sheep—</i>	
Colonial	22,838	Colonial.....	14,385
Imported	24,408	Imported	10,431
<i>Lambs—</i>		<i>Lambs—</i>	
Colonial	16,634	Colonial.....	6198
Imported	3404	Imported	5543
<i>Calves.....</i>	558	<i>Calves.....</i>	179
<i>Pigs</i>	5286	<i>Pigs.....</i>	740

APPENDIX C.

ABSTRACT of Wool Exports for the last Twenty-one Years, and Number of Sheep for the Twelve Months ending June 30.

	<i>Hobart.</i>		<i>Launceston.</i>		<i>TOTAL.</i>		<i>No. of Sheep.</i>
	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
		£		£		£	
1869-70.....	2,583,876	134,855	2,609,718	163,709	5,193,594	298,564	1,531,186
1870-71.....	2,682,193	136,380	2,264,188	123,971	4,946,381	260,351	1,349,775
1871-72.....	2,678,171	183,500	2,230,819	170,246	4,908,990	353,746	1,305,489
1872-73.....	2,390,400	182,710	2,286,750	173,378	4,677,150	356,088	1,405,862
1873-74.....	2,873,207	207,205	2,657,584	181,728	5,530,791	388,933	1,531,242
1874-75.....	3,255,032	229,847	2,811,897	199,036	6,066,929	428,883	1,700,454
1875-76.....	3,761,993	242,498	2,845,321	195,300	6,607,214	437,798	1,783,072
1876-77.....	3,648,020	235,440	3,205,510	200,828	6,853,530	436,268	1,804,486
1877-78.....	4,020,152	260,543	3,436,453	218,799	7,456,605	479,342	1,845,810
1878-79.....	4,305,322	259,093	3,717,926	225,770	8,023,248	484,863	1,845,086
1879-80.....	4,283,926	229,226	3,862,734	224,416	8,146,660	453,642	1,800,639
1880-81.....	4,321,445	253,175	3,389,401	233,222	7,710,846	486,398	1,739,088
1881-82.....	4,620,892	239,819	3,582,717	311,656	8,203,609	451,475	1,759,420
1882-83.....	4,395,721	230,843	3,842,217	216,312	8,237,938	447,155	1,739,254
1883-84.....	3,924,145	197,708	3,846,553	233,436	7,770,698	431,144	1,704,333
1884-85.....	3,902,396	194,444	3,795,185	207,121	7,697,581	401,565	1,597,184
1885-86.....	3,798,057	126,882	4,264,666	169,127	8,062,723	296,009	1,566,581
1886-87.....	3,636,534	138,728	4,182,996	187,401	7,819,530	326,129	1,543,153
1887-88.....	3,470,092	125,896	4,597,314	208,964	8,067,406	334,860	1,474,310
1888-89.....	2,936,403	110,511	4,256,097	219,305	7,192,500	329,816	1,359,907
1889-90.....	3,516,898	147,690	4,791,298	236,220	8,308,196	383,910	1,448,814

APPENDIX D.

Number of Sheep and Cattle imported since 1869, as under :—

<i>YEAR.</i>	<i>Bullocks.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>YEAR.</i>	<i>Bullocks.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
			£				£
1869	1722	16,540	31,695	1880	1707	11,193	24,815
1870	1640	17,900	27,945	1881	1953	11,458	30,173
1871	928	13,053	18,230	1882	927	4795	15,814
1872	827	5398	12,102	1883	943	10,967	22,177
1873	900	13,188	19,843	1884	462	27,730	34,897
1874	790	19,958	29,158	1885	1353	65,339	69,921
1875	1211	22,971	36,462	1886	601	52,088	50,141
1876	805	12,054	22,708	1887	1907	50,790	61,361
1877	904	8385	19,820	1888	2975	76,097	110,907
1878	1347	10,980	23,392	1889	2683	66,621	89,738
1879	1476	18,920	33,402				

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

APPENDIX E.

The Number of Sheep returned in Live Stock Returns, and under the Stock Act, since 1860 is as under :—

	<i>In Live Stock Returns.</i>	<i>Under Stock Act.</i>
From 1860 to 1869, average number	1,730,000	...
1870	1,531,187	.. 1,416,665
1871	1,349,775	.. 1,349,134
1872	1,305,489	.. 1,306,359
1873	1,395,353	.. 1,323,480
1874	1,501,531	.. 1,531,242
1875	1,714,168	.. 1,700,454
1876	1,719,768	.. 1,783,072
1877	1,755,142	.. 1,804,486
1878	1,831,278	.. 1,845,810
1879	1,838,831	.. 1,845,086
1880	1,848,591	.. 1,800,639
1881	1,783,611	.. 1,739,088
1882	1,847,479	.. 1,759,420
1883	1,830,951	.. 1,739,254
1884	1,817,069	.. 1,704,333
1885	1,705,835	.. 1,597,184
1886	1,648,627	.. 1,566,881
1887	1,605,646	.. 1,543,153
1888	1,547,242	.. 1,474,310
1889	1,430,065	.. 1,359,907
1890	1,551,429	.. 1,448,814

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

APPENDIX F.

STOCK ACT FUND.

RECEIPTS and Expenditure from 1st March, 1870, to 31st December, 1889.

YEAR.	RECEIPTS.						EXPENDITURE.		
	Amount of Contribution.	Licences.	Sheep by Sea.	Fines.	Miscellaneous, Rent, Refund Costs, &c.	TOTAL.	Salaries and Allowance.	Other Expenditure.	TOTAL.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
1870	1448 12 5	..	16 3 1	22 0 0	..	1486 15 6	794 19 10	66 9 6	861 9 4
1871	1393 18 3	..	8 6 0	58 9 9	..	1460 14 0	1810 0 0	23 10 7	1833 10 7
1872	1373 4 5	115 12 1	5 6 3	106 12 5	..	1600 15 2	1830 0 0	48 14 5	1878 14 5
1873	2841 15 8	379 8 0	12 9 6	213 10 0	..	3447 3 2	2593 1 1	50 5 0	2643 6 1
1874	3241 6 6	497 18 7	18 2 1	176 18 6	12 10 0	3946 15 8	2720 0 0	163 14 0	2883 14 0
1875	1799 6 6	407 14 9	18 19 10	308 7 0	21 2 6	2555 10 7	2708 9 2	511 8 8	3270 17 10
1876	3794 14 10	169 2 0	18 10 9	165 6 0	29 17 10	4177 11 5	3677 10 0	233 4 6	3910 14 6
1877	3827 12 4	271 9 0	5 7 7	82 16 0	22 10 9	4209 15 8	3700 0 0	143 11 0	3843 11 0
1878	3921 18 4	..	31 15 3	87 4 0	18 10 0	4059 7 7	3484 10 9	272 17 8	3757 8 5
1879	1940 2 10	..	21 0 4	30 4 0	58 3 6	2049 10 8	3380 0 0	165 6 1	3545 6 1
1880	1921 9 9	..	19 2 8	11 5 0	5 0 0	1956 17 5	2805 0 0	119 15 7	2924 15 7
1881	3690 17 4	..	22 8 3	2 4 6	..	3715 10 1	1967 10 0	199 6 3	2166 16 3
1882	1897 4 4	..	8 4 6	1 15 0	..	1907 3 10	2143 16 7	128 13 6	2272 10 1
1883	1894 13 1	..	0 0 2	5 5 0	114 8 6*	2014 6 9	2450 0 0	96 1 7	2546 1 7
1884	1903 2 11	..	..	14 16 0	..	1917 18 11	2450 0 0	57 4 2	2507 4 2
1885	1923 4 1	..	..	28 11 0	..	1951 15 1	1690 17 1	90 3 4	1781 0 5
1886	1703 17 0	..	105 8 2	88 14 6	..	1897 19 8	1750 0 0	175 8 8	1925 8 8
1887	1778 9 3	..	15 1 4	51 0 6	2 3 4	1846 14 5	1410 0 0	141 4 10	1551 4 10
1888	1749 6 9	..	..	30 10 0	..	1779 16 9	1322 0 6	278 6 0	1600 6 6
1889	1642 2 4	..	29 8 0	7 11 0	..	1679 1 4	1260 0 0	284 9 11	1544 9 11
	45,686 18 11	1841 4 5	355 13 9	1493 0 2†	284 6 5	49,661 3 8	46,007 15 0	3249 15 3	49,257 10 3

* Includes balances from Rabbit Trusts, £103 15s. 10d.

† Includes Fines under Rabbit Act and Californian Thistle Act.

J. E. PACKER, *Under Treasurer.*

Treasury, 29th May, 1890.