

(No. 27.)



1877.

SESSION IV.

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T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

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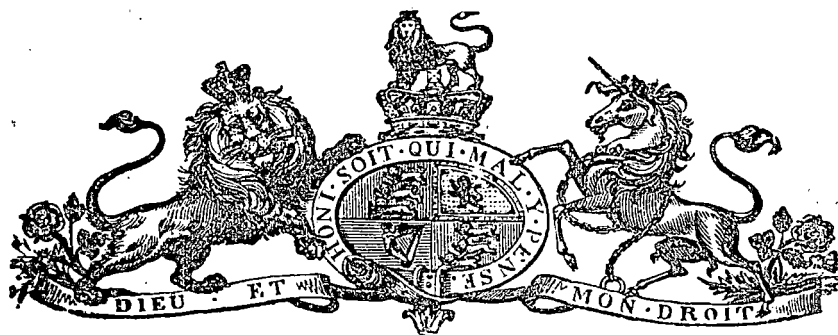
**I N F E C T E D   S H E E P :**

**R E T U R N   O F .**

*Return to an Order of the Council dated November 1, 1877. (Mr. Grubb.)*

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Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,  
November 8, 1877.



*A RETURN of Sheep now under Licence, with other Particulars connected therewith.*

DISTRICTS.	NO. OF SHEEP.	NAMES OF OWNERS.	DATE OF LICENCE.	FREE OR 6D. PER HEAD.
Brighton .....	206	William Webb .....	20 September.	Free. <sup>a</sup>
Ditto .....	320	E. Garf .....	9 August.	Free. <sup>b</sup>
Huon .....	575	R. J. Lucas .....	12 September.	6d. per head. <sup>c</sup>
Oatlands .....	1500	Pillinger & Sons (Licence in name of Alfred Pillinger.)	4 September.	Free. <sup>d</sup>
Spring Bay .....	400	Samuel Salmon.....	27 August.	6d. per head. <sup>e</sup>
Ditto .....	1600	Samuel Salmon.....	24 October.	Free. <sup>f</sup>

NAMES OF INSPECTORS AND REMARKS.

<sup>a</sup> Mr. William Harrison, Inspector. Sheep dipped twice under his supervision, and reputed clean, although still retained in quarantine until the 20th December.

<sup>b</sup> These sheep will not be entitled to a Clean Certificate when the Licence expires, as a stray infected Sheep was found with them on the 11th October, when Mr. Harrison examined them. Mr. Garf's Licence will have to be renewed on payment of 6d. per head.

<sup>c</sup> This flock was originally 1600; now only 575 can be collected, and the owner has had renewed Licences three times, on which he has paid £73 2s 6d. They were inspected by Mr. M. Harrison, who saw them dipped a first time early in August. They were dipped the second time on the 18th of August. Mr. Allison saw them on the 5th September, and again on the 14th September. They were again inspected on the 31st October by Mr. Allison, who reports that he could find no infection,—but as the country is rough, utterly unfit for sheep, and not properly fenced, I have every reason to fear that these sheep will be reinfected by stragglers, which in all probability will be picked up when the sheep are collected for shearing next month. The Huon District has been visited at various times by different Inspectors, but principally by Mr. Allison, whose duties are now confined to it, in conjunction with Glenorchy, Kingborough, and Clarence. I have reason to fear that other flocks in the Huon District may again become infected by stragglers, out in the rough back country on and near this run. Mrs. Whiting's flock in this District was reported doubtful in my last Report, and is now again being inspected.

<sup>d</sup> This District was under the charge of Mr. Hunter Young up to the early part of 1876. Shortly before that time the District was believed to be clean, and was so declared on the 30th March, 1875. Subsequently it was conveyed to me in a round-about manner, that it was known to several settlers in the District that Scab still existed in the southern portion of it. Mr. T. Tabart was instructed to examine that portion of the District, but failed to discover the plague-spot. He could get no information from those who were supposed to know of its existence. Very shortly thereafter, however, I discovered from a certain and reliable source where the infected flock was situated; but in the meantime about 9000 sheep in the neighbourhood had become infected. Then, as Mr. Hunter Young's District was much too large, I placed the Oatlands District under the charge of Mr. Thomas Tabart, who succeeded in subduing this outbreak, and the District up to the 4th September last was supposed to be clean. I may mention that when the outbreak took place above referred to, the Southern portion of the District was withdrawn from the declared clean portion. On the 3rd of August last, the Inspector believed the whole of the District might again be declared clean, but agreed with me that it would be better to postpone doing so until after shearing. About the same date, the Deloraine District being clean, I directed Mr. M. Harrison to remove from that place and take charge of Oatlands and Green Ponds, with the view of removing Mr. Thos. A. Tabart south to assist Mr. Harrison in the Spring Bay District and elsewhere. On the 4th of October I received a letter from Mr. Alfred Pillinger reporting that a flock of theirs at Boomer Hill had broken out. Mr. M. Harrison immediately thereafter inspected the flock and found the report was correct. Mr. Pillinger received a Free Licence and was directed to dip twice, which he did, but ineffectively, which was discovered on a second inspection of the flock by Messrs. Thos. A. Tabart and M. Harrison. Under the circumstances of a case like this the Inspector has no power to prescribe the mixture or manage the dipping by self or deputy. It is only when Sheep are seized under the 24th Section of the Act that I can direct the Sheep to be seized and prescribe what shall be done. When an owner of Infected Sheep reports the fact, I am bound to give him a Free Licence: I cannot prescribe the dipping mixture, or in any way control the dipping under the existing Act. On the 16th of October this flock, although having been twice dipped by the owner, was found by two Inspectors to be in no respect in a better condition than on the 4th of the month. One of the objects of the Bill now before Parliament is to remedy this state of things, and give the Chief Inspector the necessary powers, and enable him to deal with all cases in the same manner as he is now empowered to do when Section 24 comes into operation, which has rarely been the case. The flock referred to must either have been badly dipped, or they were not dipped in a Scab-destroying preparation.

<sup>e</sup> These Sheep got a Free Licence on the 27th May, and the dipping was done in the presence of the Inspector, Mr. Allison, who reported to me that it was extremely doubtful what the result might be, as he feared stragglers on a badly fenced rough run would infect them. These Sheep were found still to be infected on the 19th July. They were dipped on the 1st August; the Inspector was present. They were again dipped on the 11th, in the same manner. The presumption is that the whole of the Sheep had not been collected, and those dipped were infected by stragglers.

<sup>f</sup> Mr. Thomas A. Tabart having taken Mr. Allison's place in the Spring Bay District, inspected Mr. Salmon's Sheep on the 5th November, on that gentleman's own report that the whole of his Sheep were infected. He, as the law stands at present, gets a Free Licence for this lot, and a renewed Licence on the 400 at 6d. per head, and the Inspector under the law has no power to take possession and prescribe what shall be done in the case.

Mr. Tabart also reports a flock of Mr. William Hodgson's as being infected in this District; but as he had not had an opportunity of examining all Mr. Hodgson's flocks, he does not give me the number to be licensed. He also reports having, on the 31st October, found 82 Sheep of Mr. Olding's, near Buckland, infected, for which a Licence has not yet been issued. The Inspector also reports having received a notice from Mr. Airy that an infected strange Sheep had been found in one of his clean flocks, which he would inspect in a day or two. These Sheep will also have to be licensed,—some 500 or 600 in number, I believe.

On the 30th August, Mr. Inspector Allison reported by letter that he had inspected a number of the flocks in the neighbourhood of Buckland, including Mr. Hodgson's, on whose run he spent 3 days and saw nothing wrong. The same report he afterwards confirmed personally; but at the same time he expressed himself so very much afraid of stragglers in that neighbourhood, and the extreme carelessness of many of the Sheepowners. Some of them will persist in employing old hands, some of whom do not believe in the disease being eradicated at all, and many of whom do not wish to see that desirable end accomplished, under the impression that it is taking the bread out of their mouths.

With reference to the dates when Licences are applied for, the dates when the Licences are issued supplies that information.

I keep no Record Book of dates of inspection. I am guided at the time by the letters of Inspectors; and by their after-reports, confirmatory of the correctness of the information previously conveyed by letters.

I always take care that suspected flocks shall be examined at proper times.

Sheep under licence for 3 months are invariably inspected on the expiration of the Licence, and in any doubtful case looked at two or three times, in order to see that the dipping has been effective.

At the same time I may observe that unless the Sheep have been seized under Section 24, the Inspector has no power of interference until the Licence expires. Prosecutions under the present Act in the Districts where Scab exists are of little use, —£5 is the largest amount that has ever been imposed at Spring Bay and the Huon. Such small penalties fail to accomplish the object in view. Unless more precise and extended powers are given, as proposed in the Bill now before Parliament, it is hard to say how long disease may exist in such Districts as Spring Bay and the Huon.

I make these observations, because I have observed that the discussion on the Scab Act has been postponed until this Return has been laid on the Table of the House.

JAMES WHYTE, *Chief Inspector of Sheep.*

8th November, 1877.

P.S.—It has just been reported to me that a lot of Sheep were purchased at Swansea the other day, and have been brought down to the District of Clarence, having been travelled through an infected run at Buckland. There is no power in the Act to control an act of this kind; the Inspector is powerless. Sheep cannot go into a Clean Sheep District, but they may be taken out of it and travelled through infected runs without let or hindrance.—J. W.