

(No. 63.)



1878.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

SCAB IN SHEEP:

REPORT AS TO OUTBREAK IN TASMANIA, AND
CORRESPONDENCE.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, August 2, 1878.



TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, 18th July, 1878.

It is stated that an outbreak of Scab has taken place in Tasmania. Please favour me with full information on the subject immediately.

CHIEF SECRETARY, Victoria.

Chief Secretary, Tasmania.

TELEGRAM.

18th July, 1878.

CHIEF Inspector of Sheep states that the report is not true.

Chief Secretary, Victoria.

COLONIAL SECRETARY, Tasmania.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 20th July, 1878.

SIR,

THE day before yesterday I had the honor to forward you the following telegram in reply to one received that day from you with reference to a reported outbreak of Scab in Tasmania:—

“ Chief Inspector of Sheep states that the report is not true.”

I now take the earliest opportunity of sending you copy of a letter from the Chief Inspector of Sheep upon the subject, which fully demonstrates the unfounded character of the report; and affords strong grounds for the presumption that it was raised with the intention of directly injuring the breeders of stud Sheep in this Colony.

I have, &c.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

(Signed) WM. MOORE.

Inspector of Sheep Office, 18th July, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE now the honor to refer more fully to the subject of the telegram you received to-day from the Chief Secretary of Victoria with reference to a reported outbreak of scab in Tasmania.

I have also received a telegram from Messrs. Powers, Rutherford, & Co., through Mr. James Gibson, which states that it was reported in the *Argus* newspaper that an outbreak of scab had taken place in the neighbourhood of Messrs. Kermodé and James Gibson.

The report is utterly untrue, as is fully explained in my Report which you only received yesterday, and which, of course, can only be printed in the ordinary way after presentation to Parliament.

No outbreak of scab has taken place in any clean district in Tasmania: in fact, what has recently occurred in the Lake Country, and out of which the prosecution at Ross arose, cannot be considered a fresh outbreak of scab at all.

The run is not in a Clean Sheep District; and, moreover, it has all along been looked upon by me with considerable suspicion, but still no actual disease could be discovered by the Inspector until an infected sheep from this run got into a flock of Mr. Kermodé's immediately adjoining, at Interlaken. The suspected flock was then immediately examined, and in it was found a sheep with one spot upon it. The flock was at once taken possession of by the Inspector, under my instructions, and a competent person placed in charge. They were, of course, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, dipped twice by the gentleman in charge of them. The owner was prosecuted at Ross, not because the run is in that district, but because it was the most convenient place for all the parties interested to go to, including myself. The owner of the flock, Mr. Thomas Savage, was fined in all £167.

Mr. Kermodé's flock, in which the infected sheep was found, of course had to be dipped. It is, however, 30 miles from Mona Vale where Mr. Kermodé's stud flock is.

The report that this case arose in the neighbourhood of or in the Midland District must have been sent to Victoria by some malicious person, probably an enemy of Messrs. Gibson and Kermodé. The object is obvious enough. It must have been done with the view of exciting alarm in the minds of breeders and purchasers of stud sheep in Victoria and New South Wales; and probably this might result in the exclusion of Tasmanian sheep at the approaching sales in Melbourne next month.

I trust you will take immediate steps to disabuse the mind of the Victorian Chief Secretary of the idea which a groundless report has given birth to, and assure him that the flock in question is the only one now in Tasmania that I know to be unclean, and that it is not in a "Clean Sheep District."

The districts in the Midlands and the North where all the Stud sheep go from, have been clean for years; and the law is now, and in point of fact has been for a long time, so stringently carried out that it is impossible for sheep from the southern unproclaimed districts to go north.

For anything that I know, so far as disease is concerned, even all those districts, with the exception of the one where Mr. Savage's flock is, might be proclaimed clean to-morrow. I only refrain from doing so until after next shearing season because it would suspend the operation of the compulsory dipping Clause, 25 of "Scab Act, 1875," and I do not think this advisable until next year.

I have, &c.

JAMES WHYTE.

The Hon. Colonial Secretary.

Colonial Secretary's Office, Hobart Town, 20th July, 1878.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 18th instant, referring more fully to the subject of the telegram received from the Chief Secretary of Victoria, with reference to a reported outbreak of Scab in Tasmania.

A copy of your communication has been forwarded by this day's mail to the Hon. the Chief Secretary of Victoria; and I trust that the satisfactory statement made by you will dissipate any alarm that may have been caused by the unfounded and false report referred to.

I have, &c.

WM. MOORE.

The Chief Inspector of Sheep.