

(No. 85.)



1887.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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INSPECTOR OF SHEEP :

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE, 1887.

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



## REPORT OF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP.

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*Office of Inspector of Sheep, Hobart, 30th June, 1887.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish for your information the following Report upon the working of the Scab Act Department for the year ending 30th June, 1887.

I beg to inform you that Tasmania still remains free from Scab.

I have again to repeat the request made in my Annual Reports for the past two years, that the present Act be re-named "The Sheep and Stock Act." Eight years have elapsed since the eradication of Scab from this colony, therefore all doubt as to the cleanness of Tasmania being assured, induces me to suggest to you that the Act is erroneously named.

It is with satisfaction I have to report that my repeated visits to the adjoining colonies have not been barren of results, the outcome being that at a meeting held in Sydney in the months of September and October last, at which the Chief Inspectors of Stock from New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Queensland, New Zealand, and Tasmania took part with representative Stockholders, also the Government Veterinary Surgeons from New South Wales and Tasmania, much general information was elicited, as is shown in the minutes, proceedings, and resolutions passed by the Australasian Stock Conference, and forwarded to you from this department.

Resolutions were passed which, if carried into law by the various Governments throughout the Australasian Colonies, will be a mutual benefit, and greatly facilitate the introduction and interchange of pure Stock.

I beg to draw your attention to pages 45 to 50, also 53 to 58, of the Conference proceedings above referred to, which give full information upon matters that materially affect Tasmania, and treat exhaustively the question of the introduction of "Australasian animals by sea," this being the subject to which I particularly devoted my attention, with the determination if possible to advance and foster the stud-breeding industry, which is yearly increasing, and will ultimately, by the relaxation of the regulations of the adjoining colonies,—viz., of New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia,—prove an important source of revenue to Tasmania.

I have the honor to inform you that one most valuable concession has been made which considerably reduces the difficulty, when exporting sheep from Tasmania, of securing the true value for first-class and high-priced stud sheep in New South Wales, Victoria, and South Australia. The change is wholly attributable to the meeting of the Australasian Stock Conference; and Tasmanian stud sheep are now allowed to travel in these three colonies after having been dipped once, and are no longer subject to any quarantine, except the time that elapses between landing and being dipped, which operation may be performed, at the option of the exporter or purchaser, within a few hours after arrival if deemed desirable.

There are some existing regulations in force in New South Wales that could be well and fairly dispensed with. Resolutions were passed by the Conference to remove the two most objectionable: one in particular causes Tasmania considerable and useless labour to the Chief Inspector; it is as follows:—The New South Wales Chief Inspector requires and insists that all stud sheep exported to

that colony shall be accompanied by a certificate issued by the Chief Inspector for Tasmania and declared to before a Justice of the Peace that he has inspected the sheep exported one by one and that they are free from disease (scab). You will fully realise the work that this inspection entails when I inform you that this season I was occupied 18 days in this unnecessary work. I use this word, which I consider I am justified in doing, from the fact that Tasmania has been free from scab for the past eight years. A certificate from a Tasmanian Inspector is not considered sufficient security to prevent the importation of scab, though it has been unknown in this colony for a greater length of time than in New South Wales. The present staff of Inspectors were instrumental in the eradication of scab from Tasmania, and surely could be trusted to pass all stud sheep. Were the colonies to be canvassed no more practical men could be found than those now upon the staff in Tasmania. The Government of New South Wales would think we in Tasmania were unduly careful if we had a similar regulation, and required their Chief Inspector to attend at Twofold Bay to pass sheep coming to our colony, that has been clean for eight years.

Methods employed in different colonies for the detection of scab differ vastly; but, after all I have seen, I prefer our own practical mode, which speaks for itself: no scabby sheep have ever been passed as clean.

Another objectionable regulation in New South Wales has reference to the fodder carried for the stud sheep. A telegram was forwarded to ask if the fodder would this season be allowed to be landed in New South Wales if sent in the same vessel as the stud sheep. Reply: "Not if kept separate from that used during the voyage and bulk broken." This precaution is to prevent scab being landed in the food.

The stud sheep industry during the latter half of 1885 and the first part of 1886 did not prove so lucrative as in former years, consequent upon the bad seasons that have prevailed upon the continent of Australia. The disastrous drought just passed means less capital, consequently the inevitable result is low prices at sales. I am advised privately that the prospect of the stud-breeder is more likely to be rewarded for his industry during the season 1886-7. Copious rains have now fallen in the adjoining colonies, followed by abundance of grass, which means a better time for squatters, who must have our blood to keep their sheep up to the standard at present attained.

The following Table will show the export trade in stud sheep to the adjoining colonies since 1870 up to 30th June, 1887, with the Custom House value:—

Year.	Number.	Value.	Year.	Number.	Value.	Year.	Number.	Value.
		£			£			£
1870.....	807	4115	1876.....	1403	18,157	1882.....	1937	34,012
1871.....	998	4660	1877.....	1303	10,103	1883.....	2913	62,275
1872.....	2433	15,500	1878.....	651	8485	1884.....	3234	60,758
1873.....	2586	15,547	1879.....	1496	47,259	1885.....	2825	51,325
1874.....	1997	20,895	1880.....	—	—	1886-7.....	5240	67,424
1875.....	1673	23,414	1881.....	1306	38,305			

The sheep now in Tasmania unfortunately show a falling-off in numbers upon former years. I feel confident that the decrease is mainly due to the best pastures in the Colony being overrun with rabbits. Their great increase has been the cause of driving the sheep into pastures that would otherwise be left unfed by stock. The effect has been the propagation of disease, which has resulted in death to many thousands of sheep. I apprehend that a still greater falling-off will occur next season if a stringent Rabbit Law is not enacted, which can only be carried to a successful issue by the appointment of the machinery to enforce the law.

The decrease of sheep for the past 10 years will prove the gravity the above question assumes in that it has caused the immense falling-off I propose to show. The prosperity of Tasmania must certainly be imperilled, as far as the pastoral and agricultural interests are concerned, in the future if the suggestion and necessity for stringent legislation is not recognised, and an Act passed to secure the destruction of rabbits. By the Returns furnished to me the reduction in the total number of sheep depastured in the colony from January, 1878, to the present time amounts to 302,657.

In my report for 1886 I asked that fuller provision should be made to secure the satisfactory working of the Scab and Rabbit Acts. My estimate as submitted last session of Parliament was rejected, in consequence of which adverse decision I was instructed to reduce the then inadequate staff of Inspectors by one. With the present staff of two Inspectors it is impossible to successfully work this Department, therefore I beg respectfully to submit the urgent necessity for increasing the number of Inspectors to six.

Herewith I append the Districts I propose to place under the charge of each individual Inspector within brackets.

{ Bothwell. Hamilton. Great Lake.	{ Green Ponds. Brighton. New Norfolk.	{ Richmond. Spring Bay. Clarence. Sorell. Glamorgan.
{ Campbell Town. Ross. Oatlands. Fingal.	{ Deloraine. Port Sorell. Westbury.	{ Evandale. Longford. George Town.

It will be seen that, even with this proposed increase, the Districts are too large. Having been actively employed upon the staff since 1870, I claim to know what exertion is required to perform work over the areas of land defined for each Inspector to supervise.

To meet the expenditure that this necessary increase of the staff will entail, I propose that the rate of contribution upon sheep shall be raised from one farthing to  $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of a penny per head; and further, as the land over which cattle and horses are depastured must be protected from the ravages of rabbits, a contribution can fairly and justly be asked for from owners having such stock: the rates I ask for, as per estimate furnished, to be fixed upon this description of stock is two pence (2d.) per head, and to exclude payment upon all cattle and horses in possession of a *bonâ fide* owner up to 10 head. This rate will provide sufficient funds to meet the demands, and provide a surplus to meet any unforeseen expenses that will be sure to arise out of the working of a compulsory Rabbit Act.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

*The Hon. P. O. Fysh, Chief Secretary.*

## APPENDIX A.

*RETURN showing the Number of Sheep and Lambs in each District in the Colony.*

<i>District.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Lambs.</i>	<i>TOTAL.</i>
Bothwell .....	109,580	25,634	135,214
Brighton .....	21,230	5520	26,750
Clarence .....	13,087	2426	15,513
Campbell Town .....	89,487	22,131	111,618
Deloraine .....	20,816	9015	29,831
Evandale .....	70,669	21,845	92,514
Fingal .....	108,690	23,696	132,386
George Town .....	36,084	5448	41,532
Glamorgan .....	41,784	11,308	53,092
Green Ponds .....	23,049	8565	31,614
Great Lake .....	50,558	1644	52,202
Glenorchy .....	901	382	1283
Hamilton .....	107,794	25,634	133,428
Horton .....	9809	3411	13,220
Hobart and Kingborough .....	6221	888	7109
Huon .....	1683	394	2077
Longford .....	92,829	34,433	127,262
New Norfolk .....	18,254	4070	22,324
Oatlands .....	126,398	30,387	156,785
Port Sorell .....	14,131	6523	20,654
Richmond .....	35,081	8047	43,128
Ross .....	79,982	12,471	92,453
Sorell .....	27,602	10,249	37,851
Selby .....	49,881	10,454	60,335
Spring Bay .....	36,132	5272	41,404
Westbury .....	42,493	19,081	61,574
	1,234,225	308,928	1,543,153

## APPENDIX B.

*STATEMENT of the Number of Head of Cattle, Sheep, and Pigs received at the Hobart Station of the Tasmanian Main Line Railway.*

Year.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Pigs.	TOTAL.
1877.....	1370	17,250	559	19,183
1878.....	2042	26,732	1289	30,063
1879.....	1767	27,527	1388	29,682
1880.....	2099	22,465	1671	26,235
1881.....	2071	18,226	2087	22,384
1882.....	3084	27,445	2077	32,606
1883.....	2685	21,241	2152	26,078
1884.....	3116	28,290	2691	34,097
1885.....	2148	33,991	2471	38,610
1886.....	2864	34,063	3271	40,198

## APPENDIX C.

*RETURN of Stock slaughtered during the Year 1886.*

AT HOBART.		AT LAUNCESTON.	
<i>Cattle—</i>		<i>Cattle—</i>	
Colonial.....	4306	Colonial.....	3800
Imported.....	573	<i>Sheep—</i>	
<i>Sheep—</i>		Colonial.....	19,449
Colonial.....	27,525	Imported.....	5003
Imported.....	25,291	<i>Lambs—</i>	
<i>Lambs—</i>		Colonial.....	11,678
Colonial.....	15,076	Imported.....	604
Imported.....	1446	<i>Calves</i> .....	130
<i>Calves</i> .....	584	<i>Pigs</i> .....	907
<i>Pigs</i> .....	8501		

## APPENDIX D.

*ABSTRACT of Wool Exports for the last Sixteen Years, and number of Sheep for the 12 months ending June 30.*

	Hobart.		Launceston.		TOTAL.		No. of Sheep.
	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	Lbs.	Value.	
		£		£		£	
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.....	3,258,032	229,847	2,811,897	199,036	6,069,299	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	7,436,453	479,342	1,845,810
1878-79.....	4,305,322	259,093	3,717,926	225,770	8,022,926	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	1,566,881
1886-87.....	3,636,534	138,728	4,182,996	187,401	7,819,530	326,129	1,543,153

## APPENDIX E.

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

	<i>In Live Stock Returns.</i>	<i>Under Scab 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

\* Not including sheep on Islands in Bass Straits.

## APPENDIX F.

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

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

## APPENDIX G.

Number in the Colony, as per Stock and Crop Returns, since 1873 :—

In 1873 Cattle were returned at.....	104,594 head
1874 ditto .....	106,308 ditto
1875 ditto .....	110,450 ditto
1876 ditto .....	118,694 ditto
1877 ditto .....	124,459 ditto
1878 ditto .....	121,187 ditto
1879 ditto .....	126,276 ditto
1880 ditto .....	129,091 ditto
1881 ditto .....	126,900 ditto
1882 ditto .....	130,526 ditto
1883 ditto .....	122,504 ditto
1884 ditto .....	130,525 ditto
1885 ditto .....	128,834 ditto
1886 ditto .....	138,642 ditto
1887 ditto .....	147,758 ditto

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

## APPENDIX H.

## SCAB ACT FUND.

*RECEIPTS and Expenditure from 1st March, 1870, to 31st December, 1886.*

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	2768 9 2	511 8 8	3279 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 0*	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
	40,517 0 7	1841 4 5	311 4 5	1403 18 8†	282 3 1	44,355 11 2	42,015 14 6	2545 14 6	44,561 9 0

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

† Includes Fines under Rabbit Act and Californian Thistle Act.

J. E. PACKER, *Under Treasurer.**Treasury, 25th July, 1887.*