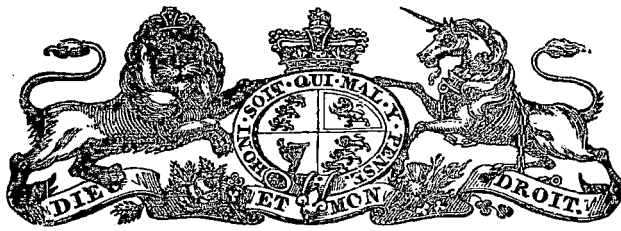


(No. 74.)



1893.

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PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

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“THE STOCK ACT, 1889.”

REPORT BY CHIEF INSPECTOR.

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



## "THE STOCK ACT, 1889."

### REPORT BY CHIEF INSPECTOR.

*Office of Inspector of Stock, Hobart, 1st July, 1893.*

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish my Report under the Stock Act for the year ending 30th June, 1893, and in doing so have much pleasure in informing you that Tasmanian flocks continue free from scab disease, the strict quarantine regulations providing the necessary safeguard against its re-introduction.

Since the date of my last Report the Triennial Conference has been held at Wellington, New Zealand, the Report of which has already reached your hands.

The Conference suggested important alterations in the period of quarantine upon "foreign stock"—that upon sheep to be reduced from ninety days to sixty days; swine, previously prohibited, to be admitted on quarantine of sixty days; and the quarantine for cattle to be reduced from one hundred and twenty days to sixty days. This will enable those desirous of improving their stock to do so at a trifling quarantine cost.

Another important Resolution adopted was, "That it is desirable that an efficient and competent staff of Inspectors of Stock be maintained in each Colony to prevent the introduction and to arrest the spread of contagious and infectious disease in each Colony, and to give the other Colonies confidence that the stock asked to be introduced are free from infection, and that where stock come from a Colony in which such a staff is not maintained the Colony into which they are proposed to be introduced be entitled to put on such restrictions as it may deem necessary to impose by way of guarantee that such stock are not infected. That it is desirable the Governments of Queensland, South Australia, and Western Australia should exercise the greatest possible vigilance with respect to their northern ports to prevent the introduction of disease from Eastern India or China ports." I am quite in accord with this Resolution. The small outlay by stockowners is simply an insurance for protection from introduction of disease.

In a previous communication I have furnished the particulars of the subjects discussed, the most important of which was the framing and agreeing to of a uniform code of regulations to be adopted by the Colonies represented, if approved by their respective Governments. These I duly forwarded, and recommended their adoption, but upon being handed to the Crown Law Officers it was discovered that the Acts now in force in Tasmania were not sufficiently elastic to enable them to become law. I therefore, with your approval, suggested that a new Stock Act should be prepared and submitted to Parliament during the coming Session which will admit of their adoption.

The question of scab in New Zealand was discussed at considerable length. Ultimately it was decided that if after the shearing of 1893 scab was not detected in the then suspected flocks the prohibition existing upon New Zealand sheep should be withdrawn. This has been carried into effect in New South Wales and Queensland. The first-named colony, most injudiciously I think, now admits the introduction of New Zealand sheep without either dipping or quarantine, and this in the face of Mr. Bruce's remarks at the Conference that "it might be necessary that they should take some precaution in addition, and it might be that they should require to dip for a time." This action on the part of the New South Wales authorities is inexplicable, particularly when I inform

you that Tasmanian sheep were not allowed into New South Wales without dipping and quarantine until after the colony had been proclaimed clean for *nine years*. But in the case of New Zealand sheep they are admitted after the colony has been pronounced clean for *four months*; and this after three distinct outbreaks following the Government notification of cleanness from scab.

When I entered my protest against the present restrictions being removed from New Zealand sheep it was not from the fear of re-introducing scab alone. I would have considered it absolutely necessary, had I approved of the introduction of New Zealand sheep, to have recommended the enforcement of two dippings in sulphur and lime upon all sheep coming from a colony so recently proclaimed free from scab. My chief objection was not to incur the risk of introducing the sheep bot-fly (*Æstrus ovis*), which I saw for the first time when in New Zealand, and which is reported prevalent by Mr. McClean, the New Zealand Veterinary Surgeon, in his annual report furnished to the Stock Department. This pest, I am glad to say, is unknown in Tasmania.

The course I have adopted has been questioned at some length by correspondents through the columns of the Australasian and New Zealand papers, nevertheless I fail to see why Tasmanian stockowners should incur the risk of introducing a pest hitherto unknown.

While upon the subject of introduction of diseases, I may observe that in my Report furnished for 1891-92 I drew attention to the fact that to obviate the possibility of introducing warbles a clause should be inserted in the new Stock Act giving power to inspect all imported stock for a period of six months after their release from quarantine, and to take possession of them should this or any other disease make its appearance, all expenses to be borne by the importer. This will be in addition to the Regulations agreed to by the Conference, and has been found necessary owing to the uncertain periods of incubation, which is hastened or retarded by unusual conditions. Quite recently the Queensland Stock Department discovered warbles to exist upon cattle imported from England, and suggested that cattle leaving there between the months of May and August should be specially inspected. I would suggest that cattle from England should not be allowed to land in Tasmania at all if exported during the period mentioned. This would practically ensure safety from the *Æstrus bovis*.

Now that a new Stock Act is being framed, I beg to especially draw your attention to a want in the present Act, which should be rectified by making it compulsory upon owners to dip their sheep to eradicate ticks and lice. In the present Act there is a permissive clause, which is unworkable. Sheepowners lose annually a large sum from ticks in their flocks, and much discoloured and matted wool is marketed owing in a great measure to the presence of this parasite, which attacks chiefly weaners, and increase in numbers with the poverty of the sheep. The loss consequent upon the dirty appearance of the wool is from 1*d.* to 2*d.* per lb. This is a serious loss to the colony, and should this recommendation not be approved, I suggest as an alternative that all sheep so affected found travelling or in a sale-yard be dipped under authority of an inspector.

During the past year reports have been frequent that numbers of sheep are suffering and many have died from worms, both intestinal and lung worms. This state of things also exists in the adjoining colonies. From practical sources I have ascertained that change of pasturage is a great preventive, with simple and efficacious draughts, and licks for stomach, intestinal, and lung worms. The following receipts are recommended; viz.:—Drenches of turpentine, 1 pint (that is, 20 fluid ounces); raw linseed oil, 2 pints: or, turpentine, 1 pint, and milk, 2 pints. These must be thoroughly stirred and mixed. Dose—Sheep, 3 ounces; weaners, 2 ounces, when the animals are weak use a smaller dose, and administer two or three times at intervals of from seven to ten days. For licks—Common salt, 10 lbs.; sulphate of iron, 1 lb.; and turpentine, 1 pint to every 25 to 60 lbs. of salt. This must be placed in small quantities in troughs, so as to be consumed before evaporation; and a shed or some protection should be placed over it to prevent it from being spoilt by rain. These remedies have been successfully proved after careful trials.

I have to report cases of deaths occurring amongst milch cows, working bullocks, and young cattle, which I attribute in a great measure to indifferent farming. I have had information of something of the same kind in the adjoining colonies, which the authorities there appear to consider arises from an attack of influenza, with slight symptoms of catarrh, and unless remedial measures are at once taken death results.

It is satisfactory to note that the fame of Tasmanian stud sheep has extended to Cape Colony, and that a landowner from that colony secured a number of high class rams and ewes at the last annual sale held in Sydney. Since then some of our enterprising stud-breeders have forwarded a pioneer shipment under the charge of Mr. Russell Gibson, who thoroughly proved his competency for the position by landing all the sheep in excellent condition in the sale-pens at Port Elizabeth, after the great difficulties of a long sea voyage and 800 miles train transit.

The prices realised did not reach expectation, when the large expenses incidental to such a trip are considered; however, it is satisfactory to obtain reliable information that the excellency of the

Tasmanian blood has already established a good reputation, and that ewes bred in Cape Colony, sired by Tasmanian rams, have produced prize-takers in the show-yards there.

The export of stud sheep to the adjoining colonies still continues, notwithstanding the inferior nature of some of the stock offered. The action of some breeders in forwarding animals utterly devoid of characteristics that stamp stud stock or animals desirable to reproduce from is very much to be regretted. Large numbers of such sheep are placed in the sale-yards and sold at unremunerative prices, to the injury of stud-breeding and those who have the industry at heart.

A good season has been reported in the adjoining colonies, and, notwithstanding the disastrous bank failures, the prospects of the sheep sales shortly to be held in Sydney are encouraging.

*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	1878.....	651	8485	1886.....	2207	32,689
1871.....	998	4660	1879.....	1496	47,259	1887.....	4005	54,337
1872.....	2433	15,500	1880.....	—	—	1888.....	4140	56,045
1873.....	2586	15,547	1881.....	1306	38,305	1889.....	4660	60,472
1874.....	1997	20,395	1882.....	1937	34,012	1890*.....	4748	65,110
1875.....	1673	23,414	1883.....	2913	62,275	1891.....	6581	74,892
1876.....	1403	18,157	1884.....	3244	60,758	1892.....	5398	37,774
1877.....	1303	10,103	1885.....	2825	51,325	1893.....	7262	52,464

\* Owing to delay in the sailing of the vessel, 2316 of these sheep, valued at £44,455, were not shipped until early in July.

It may be anticipated, from the very favourable nature of the season, that the fall of lambs will be heavy throughout the Colony. Grass is plentiful, and stock are in excellent store condition. This, combined with the fact that most properties are under-stocked, must naturally have a good effect.

I should hail with satisfaction the introduction of a tax upon stallions and bulls; the depreciation in horses and cattle is everywhere apparent. If a tax of this nature was imposed of, say, £10 per head on horses and £2 on bulls, a very different state of things would be brought about. The Southern Tasmanian Agricultural and Pastoral Society are working with this object in view, and with their assistance I feel satisfied that the details could be satisfactorily carried out.

Upon the examination of Appendix B it will be seen that there is a considerable decrease in the number of imported cattle and sheep slaughtered, and a large increase of colonial cattle and sheep slaughtered at both Hobart and Launceston during 1892. This to a certain extent accounts for the decrease in the number of sheep now depasturing in Tasmania.

I have the honor to be,  
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*The Hon. the Chief Secretary.*

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

## APPENDIX A.

*RETURN showing the Number of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses depastured in each District in the Colony for the Year 1893.*

<i>District.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Horses.</i>
Bothwell .....	150,672	4789	324
Brighton .....	21,368	1420	555
Campbell Town .....	127,669	4674	375
Clarence .....	15,404	877	309
Deloraine.....	28,309	7278	1223
Evandale .....	124,478	5192	733
Fingal .....	103,425	8285	641
George Town .....	30,811	2368	238
Green Ponds .....	30,429	1873	230
Glamorgan .....	52,361	1596	290
Hamilton .....	105,437	8517	506
Hobart and Kingborough.....	5915	1061	196
Huon .....	1750	936	209
Horton .....	11,423	5936	563
Longford .....	125,130	5732	1392
New Norfolk.....	12,580	1263	376
Oatlands .....	158,077	8216	892
Port Sorell .....	16,740	8723	1759
Ringarooma .....	23,783	7505	647
Richmond .....	37,667	1684	440
Ross .....	75,494	2249	110
South Longford .....	50,857	2690	92
Sorell .....	32,610	2993	577
Selby .....	62,153	4631	694
Spring Bay .....	51,285	1891	239
Westbury .....	48,045	4907	1282
<b>TOTAL .....</b>	<b>1,503,872</b>	<b>106,786</b>	<b>14,892</b>

## APPENDIX B.

*RETURN of Stock slaughtered during the Years 1891 and 1892.*

AT HOBART.			AT LAUNCESTON.		
<i>Cattle—</i>	<b>1891.</b>	<b>1892.</b>	<i>Cattle—</i>	<b>1891.</b>	<b>1892.</b>
Colonial.....	1947	2939	Colonial.....	2739	3787
Imported .....	4372	3896	Imported .....	384	2
<i>Sheep—</i>			<i>Sheep—</i>		
Colonial .....	29,374	41,438	Colonial.....	16,900	32,684
Imported .....	36,872	27,934	Imported .....	15,300	4934
<i>Calves</i> .....	777	847	<i>Calves</i> .....	230	370
<i>Pigs</i> .....	10,432	10,662	<i>Pigs</i> .....	604	934

## APPENDIX C.

*ABSTRACT of Wool Exports for the last Twenty-four Years, and Number of Sheep for the Twelve 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	153,971	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	207,828	6,853,530	436,268	1,804,486
1877-78.....	4,020,152	260,543	3,436,453	213,799	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	239,319	3,582,717	311,656	8,203,609	451,475	1,759,420
1882-83.....	4,395,721	230,343	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	163,127	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
1887-88.....	3,470,092	125,896	4,597,314	203,964	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
1890-91.....	3,786,257	161,299	5,005,244	252,121	8,791,501	413,420	1,550,380
1891-92.....	3,247,049	145,032	4,837,149	188,625	8,084,198	333,657	1,521,633
1892-93.....	3,424,450	121,888	5,061,116	183,019	8,485,566	304,907	1,503,372