

(No. 74.)



1880.

T A S M A N I A.

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

SCAB IN SHEEP :

LETTER FROM CHIEF INSPECTOR.

Laid upon the Table by Mr. Moore, and ordered by the Council to be printed,
September 30, 1880.



Inspector of Sheep Office, 30th September, 1880.

SIR,

To enable you to reply to questions asked in the Council in *re* Scab Act, I have the honor to inform you as follows :—

1st. I have received no information that Scab exists in the Colony. I have seen Mr. Francis Allison's letter in the *Mercury*, and have written a reply to it, which I presume will appear tomorrow.

2nd. The only step I have taken is to ask Mr. Allison to send to me the letter he states he has received. If Mr. Allison has received such letters I venture to say they are from some small sheep-owners not much acquainted with sheep management, who fancy something is wrong with their sheep, and desire an Inspector to see them. I have frequently received such letters during the last two years, but invariably on examination it has turned out that the sheep were free from Scab, and only had some cutaneous affection of no importance whatever.

If Mr. Allison did receive the letters he refers to in his letter addressed to the *Mercury*, I consider that as they were addressed to him as an Inspector he was bound to forward them to me without a moment's delay ; and I am further of opinion that, in withholding those letters from me and addressing the public with reference to their contents through the columns of a newspaper, was an act utterly unworthy of a gentleman who had been over seven years an Inspector, and in addition to that I think was an act which all honorable men would condemn.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES WHYTE, *Chief Inspector of Sheep.*

The Honorable WILLIAM MOORE, Colonial Secretary.