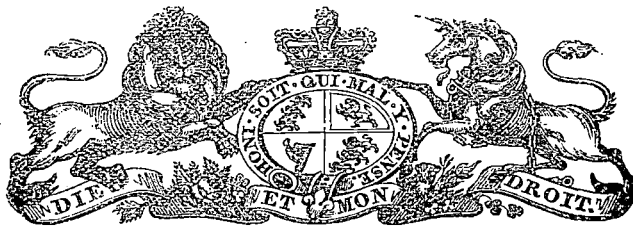


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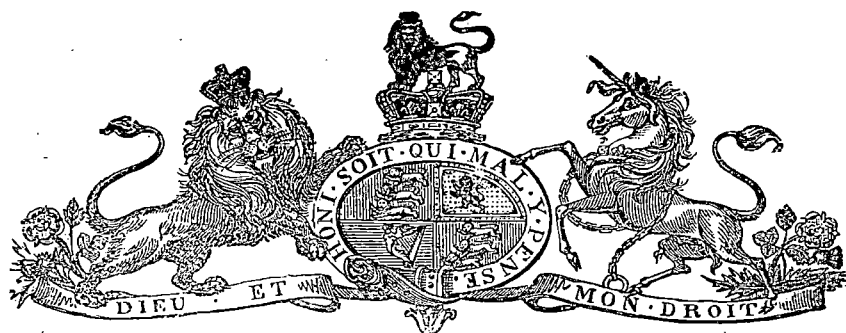
1891.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

CHIEF INSPECTOR OF STOCK:

REPORT FOR 1890.

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



Office of Inspector of Stock, Hobart, 30th June, 1891.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish my Annual Report under the Stock Act up to June 30th, 1891, and have again to chronicle that Tasmania is still free from scab. The extermination of this disease from the Colony is the result of "The Scab Act, 1870."

It is gratifying to report that after years of persistent representation and endeavours to obtain a relaxation of the quarantine laws in the adjoining Colonies, I have the satisfaction to record the successful accomplishment of the object in view, resulting in an alteration of the laws and regulations, which now permits Tasmanian stud sheep to be introduced into New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland, South Australia, and New Zealand without either dipping or quarantine, provided the stock exported from Tasmania is accompanied by the necessary certificates that scab has not been reintroduced into the Colony. This dire calamity might possibly have resulted to Tasmania but for the prompt action adopted when a cargo of sheep from Victoria were forcibly landed at the Mersey in September last, ex *Rebecca*, which vessel had traded within six months to an unclean port (New Zealand), consequently the captain was unable to produce or furnish the certificate required under our Stock Regulations. In defiance of the law the sheep were landed. Acting under your instructions, I caused the sheep to be seized and destroyed; the carcasses were sold for consumption by public auction; the skins and offal were consumed by fire; and the proceeds, after deducting expenses of slaughter, &c., will, with the consent of the Government, be handed to the shipper. This action will unmistakably show the adjoining Colonies that Tasmania is alive to the importance of preventing the reintroduction of scab, and clearly demonstrates the intention of the Stock Department to recommend the Government not to permit any infringement of the Stock Conference Regulations.

The outcome of the Conference of 1889 was that a uniform code of regulations was framed by the authorities in Victoria, but not being sufficiently explicit, and failing to fully provide for and carry out all the resolutions of the Conference in detail, was not adopted. They have been enlarged upon by the Chief Inspector of New South Wales, Mr. Alexander Bruce, who is to be congratulated on the care and labour he bestowed upon the framing of a draft code of uniform regulations, which was submitted to the meeting of the Chief Inspectors from New South Wales, Tasmania, and Queensland at Sydney on 15th June, 1891, which was convened at the instance of the Honorable the Minister of Mines, New South Wales. The regulations submitted were carefully considered by the delegates present, with the result that they were passed, and will be recommended to the Governments of the Colonies represented for adoption as the uniform code for Australasia. I heartily concur with the regulations, and beg respectfully to urge the Government of Tasmania to assent to them. This will practically secure an Australasian Stock Federation. It is to be regretted that the Chief Inspectors of Victoria and South Australia were not present at the meeting of Chief Inspectors, as matters were discussed having an important bearing upon both colonies.

Another subject of great moment was considered,—namely, the necessity for establishing an Australian Stock Institute, which would be calculated to materially benefit the stock industry. This was recommended to the Governments of the Colonies by the Stock Conference in 1889, and now again strongly urged by the delegates present at the meeting on 15th June last. The object is the scientific investigation of any disease that may be amongst stock owned in any of the contributing colonies, the nature of the disease, the cause, and the treatment to be followed to prevent the recurrence of an outbreak. It is proposed that the services of a competent scientist be procured, whose duty will be to diagnose and report upon any subject forwarded to the Institute; also to instruct such limited number of students as each colony may elect to send, upon terms to be subsequently agreed, so that they might have the opportunity to become expert in the use of the microscope and other work connected with the laboratory. Rodd Island, upon which was erected

an establishment for the purpose of the Rabbit Commission, would be admirably suited, having thereon most of the appliances incident to the performance of the necessary work. I strongly recommend the Government to consent to the adoption of so useful a suggestion, particularly as the payment Tasmania would have to contribute to the fund would be calculated *pro rata* upon the stock depastured in the different colonies, and would amount to the insignificant sum of £16, against £337 contributed by New South Wales, £131 Victoria, £313 Queensland, £52 South Australia, £19 Western Australia, and £132 New Zealand.

The desirability of maintaining a competent staff of Inspectors was deemed a necessity by the Conference of 1889. This is most essential, as it will have the effect of securing the confidence that should exist between the various Stock Departments throughout the Colonies, and act as a precaution against the introduction of disease.

I beg to quote from statistics compiled by Mr. Coghlan, of New South Wales, which will afford information to the public, and make them aware of the important effect the investment of capital in pastoral holdings and the raising of stock has upon the future advancement of the Colonies. On January 1st, 1890, in Australia the capital invested in pastoral properties amounted to £417,000,000. Of this sum the value of stock alone was £75,158,118, and the annual return from the pastoral industry was £34,745,300. These figures speak for themselves.

It is satisfactory to note the growing increase in the export of stud sheep from 807 head, valued at £4115, in 1870, to 6581 head, valued at £74,892, in 1891, as shown by Return below compiled from Customs Returns.

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	20,895	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	3234	60,758			
1877.....	1303	10,103	1885	2825	51,325			

* Owing to delay in the sailing of the vessel, 2816 of these sheep, valued at £44,455, were not shipped until early in July.

Upon examination of Appendix B it will be found that the fact is clearly demonstrated that Tasmania is still unable to produce sufficient meat to supply local consumption. The large increase of population into our mining districts is one source of absorption of our meat supply, but the rabbit pest from which the Colony is suffering is the primary cause. Although we are credited with an increase of all descriptions of stock, the effect has not at present been felt. It is important, from figures supplied by the Slaughter House Inspector, to show what the actual decrease or increase of colonial or imported stock slaughtered is for the year ending December 31st, 1890:—

Colonial cattle, decrease	717 head.
„ sheep, „	14,450 „
„ lambs, increase	1247 „
Imported cattle, „	997 „
„ sheep, „	7181 „
„ lambs, decrease	1272 „

The unpleasant feature of the Annual Return of Stock slaughtered is the large number of our colonial lambs killed, which, for 1889 was 22,842, and in 1890, 24,069.

I have to inform you that, since furnishing my Report for 1890, the quarantine ground, “Nubeena,” has been established in the south of the Island, and is now nearly completed for the reception of all descriptions of stock imported into the Island; so far this has proved a great boon to owners desirous of improving their herds and flocks. Up to date I have the satisfaction to record the admittance into the ground of fifty (50) head of pedigree Ayrshire bulls and cows.

The opening of this ground, with the shortened period of quarantine upon New Zealand cattle from six (6) months to thirty (30) days, has given a great stimulus to trade in pure stock, and is of great advantage to the Colony.

In conclusion, I have very much pleasure in signifying my approval of the manner in which the Inspectors appointed have performed their duties under the Stock and the Rabbits Destruction Acts, notwithstanding the difficulties and obstructive action they have had to contend with.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

The Hon. the Chief Secretary.

APPENDIX A.

RETURN showing the Number of Sheep, Cattle, and Horses depastured in each District in the Colony for the Year 1891.

<i>District.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Cattle.</i>	<i>Horses.</i>
Bothwell	130,472	4512	318
Brighton	21,262	1103	518
Campbell Town	124,132	3696	380
Clarence	14,567	812	326
Deloraine.....	26,434	8356	1221
Evandale.....	112,710	4691	761
Fingal	108,766	6660	650
George Town.....	25,242	1859	229
Glenorchy	1016	250	78
Glamorgan	53,440	1988	326
Green Ponds	53,947	1963	229
Hamilton.....	121,837	8983	689
Hobart and Kingborough	5461	1218	259
Horton	11,125	7402	870
Huon	3605	1695	339
Longford	124,678	4656	1461
New Norfolk	14,058	1610	400
Oatlands	206,122	6742	830
Port Sorell	20,447	9391	1941
Richmond	46,150	1460	418
Ross	82,800	1923	121
Selby	61,172	5663	897
Spring Bay.....	34,612	1380	186
Sorell	36,533	2784	638
Westbury	61,955	4982	1480
Great Lake	26,370	1668	52
Ringarooma and Portland	21,467	5059	482
TOTAL	1,550,380	102,506	16,094

APPENDIX B.

RETURN of Stock slaughtered during the Year 1890.

<i>AT HOBART.</i>		<i>AT LAUNCESTON.</i>	
<i>Cattle—</i>		<i>Cattle—</i>	
Colonial.....	1894	Colonial	3567
Imported	3547	Imported	68
<i>Sheep—</i>		<i>Sheep—</i>	
Colonial.....	11,608	Colonial	11,165
Imported	33,928	Imported	8092
<i>Lambs—</i>		<i>Lambs—</i>	
Colonial.....	11,898	Colonial	12,171
Imported	4975	Imported	2700
<i>Calves</i>	658	<i>Calves</i>	183
<i>Pigs</i>	8105	<i>Pigs</i>	731

APPENDIX C.

ABSTRACT of Wool Exports for the last Twenty-two Years, and Number of Sheep for the Twelve Months ending June 30.

	<i>Hobart.</i>		<i>Launceston.</i>		<i>TOTAL.</i>		<i>No. of Sheep.</i>
	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>Lbs.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	
		£		£		£	
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
1887-88.....	3,470,092	125,896	4,597,314	208,964	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

APPENDIX D.

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

<i>YEAR.</i>	<i>Bullocks.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Value.</i>	<i>YEAR.</i>	<i>Bullocks.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Value.</i>
			£				£
1869	1722	16,540	31,695	1880	1707	11,193	24,815
1870	1640	17,900	27,945	1881	1953	11,458	30,173
1871	928	13,053	18,230	1882	927	4795	15,814
1872	827	5398	12,102	1883	943	10,967	22,177
1873	900	13,188	19,843	1884	462	27,730	34,897
1874	790	19,958	29,158	1885	1353	65,339	69,921
1875	1211	22,971	36,462	1886	601	52,088	50,141
1876	805	12,054	22,708	1887	1907	50,790	61,361
1877	904	8385	19,820	1888	2975	76,097	110,907
1878	1347	10,980	23,392	1889	2683	66,621	89,738
1879	1476	18,920	33,402	1890	3657	82,957	97,832

APPENDIX E.

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

	<i>In Live Stock Returns.</i>	<i>Under Stock 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
1888	1,547,242	.. 1,474,310
1889	1,430,065	.. 1,359,907
1890	1,551,429	.. 1,448,814
1891	1,619,256	.. 1,550,380

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

APPENDIX F.

STOCK ACT FUND.

RECEIPTS and Expenditure from 1st March, 1870, to 31st December, 1890.

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	43 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 6*	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
1887	1778 9 3	..	15 1 4	51 0 6	2 3 4	1846 14 5	1410 0 0	141 4 10	1551 4 10
1888	1749 6 9	..	..	30 10 0	..	1779 16 9	1322 0 6	278 6 0	1600 6 6
1889	1642 2 4	..	29 8 0	7 11 0	..	1679 1 4	1260 0 0	284 9 11	1544 9 11
1890	4378 10 1	..	..	23 16 0	366 1 5†	4768 7 6	3870 0 0	265 0 2	4135 0 2
	50,065 9 0	1841 4 5	355 13 9	1516 16 2‡	650 7 10	54,429 11 2	40,877 15 0	3514 15 5	53,392 10 5

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

† Includes Fines under Rabbit Act and Californian Thistle Act.

‡ £366 1s. 5d.

J. E. PACKER, *Under Treasurer.*

Treasury, 6th July, 1891.