

(No. 50.)



1877.

SESSION II.

---

T A S M A N I A.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

---

**CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP:**

**INTERIM REPORT FOR 1876.**

---

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, and ordered by the House to be printed, May 16, 1877.



## REPORT OF THE CHIEF INSPECTOR OF SHEEP.

---

*Inspector of Sheep Office, 8th May, 1877.*

SIR,

On the 5th January last, in reply to your request that I should furnish my Report for 1876, I had the honor to state fully my reasons why it was inconvenient for me to do so at that period of the year; the principal reason being that until the end of June a very considerable number of Returns are not received at this office.

But, although I cannot at this date make up my Return containing the usual amount of information interesting to sheepowners, I think it desirable to place you in possession of the number of sheep returned at this date, and their condition on the 1st of this month, in order that you may be in a position to satisfy any enquiries which may be made in Parliament when the Estimates for the remainder of the current year are under consideration.

I may state that the whole of the Island north of Constitution Hill and Spring Bay is now free from sheep under Licence.

The Return appended shows the number of sheep in each District, and the number still under Licence.

The Oatlands District, in which there were about 9000 sheep under Licence last year at this time, is now reported to me as being entirely free from disease; and I am only waiting for another report from the Inspector confirmatory of the last, when I hope to be able to advise that the whole of that District may again be proclaimed a "Clean Sheep District."

I understand that an opinion is entertained by a few sheepowners who have not given very much attention to the subject, or who look more at the contribution to the Scab Act Fund than at the great and solid advantages they have already reaped from it, that now when so few flocks are infected an immediate reduction should take place in the number of Inspectors.

I beg leave most strongly to express my opinion that to reduce the inspecting power during the current year would be most unwise. In 1878 I believe it may be done to a considerable extent and without risk. To do so at present would be absolute folly.

I reckon that for 1878 the farthing per head contribution will be sufficient, with the expected surplus at the end of this year, to keep up the necessary number of Inspectors.

The number of sheep returned to this date proves, I think, that the reported losses from fluke in 1876 must have been very much exaggerated.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES WHYTE.

*The Hon. THOMAS REIBEY, Colonial Secretary.*

*RETURN showing the Number of Sheep in each District in the Colony, and their Condition on the 1st May, 1877.*

<i>Districts.</i>	<i>Sheep.</i>	<i>Under Licence.</i>	<i>Remarks.</i>
Bothwell .....	145,953	1284	In two flocks.
Brighton.....	41,634	715	Three small flocks.
Campbell Town.....	154,456	—	
Clarence .....	20,008	—	
Deloraine.....	23,750	—	
Evandale.....	132,704	—	
Fingal.....	117,836	—	
George Town .....	40,889	—	
Glamorgan.....	52,691	—	
Green Ponds.....	33,320	604	Two lots.
Great Lake.....	77,131	—	
Glenorchy.....	3022	—	
Hamilton.....	167,908	—	
Horton .....	15,914	—	
Huon .....	5227	1600	One lot.
Hobart and Kingborough } .....	6529	—	
Longford.....	153,288	—	
New Norfolk .....	30,319	700	One lot.
Oatlands .....	189,950	—	
Port Sorell .....	22,337	—	
Richmond.....	57,470	224	One lot.
Ross .....	72,056	—	
Sorell.....	34,480	—	
Selby.....	55,998	—	
Spring Bay.....	47,684	900	One lot.
Westbury.....	81,185	—	
<b>TOTAL.....</b>	<b>1,783,739</b>	<b>6027</b>	