

(No. 72.)



1876.

TASMANIA.

HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

**IMPORTATION OF TASMANIAN SHEEP INTO
VICTORIA.**

**CORRESPONDENCE WITH REFERENCE TO THREATENED
PROHIBITION.**

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Secretary, September 26, 1876, and ordered
by the House to be printed.



TELEGRAM.

Melbourne, 18th May, 1875. Time, 11.44.

NATIONAL Agricultural Society of Victoria bring under our notice the prevalence of scab in a virulent form in Tasmania, and as Victoria may now be almost considered clean, it is urged upon the Government to prohibit importation of sheep from Tasmania; we propose to issue proclamation accordingly.

(Signed) G. B. KERFERD.

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

TELEGRAM.

Hobart Town, 18th May, 1875, 5 P.M.

You need not be under any alarm about the report which has reached you respecting an outbreak of scab in Tasmania.

Our Chief Inspector received a report from Carrick, near Launceston, last week that a few sheep were found scabby in a small flock, and he had them immediately destroyed.

I will send you a full report on the case, and write by next steamer, meanwhile this Government trusts you will not consider it expedient to issue any proclamation prohibiting the importation of sheep from Tasmania into Victoria.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN, *Colonial Secretary.*

The Chief Secretary, Victoria.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th May, 1875.

MY DEAR MR. WHYTE,

HEREWITH I send you a copy of a telegram I have just received from the Chief Secretary in Victoria, with a copy of my telegram in reply.

Will you be good enough to send me an official report by return of post for me to forward by the next mail for Melbourne, which will be made up on Thursday evening, and forwarded to Launceston by that night's mail for transmission to Melbourne by the *Derwent*, advertised to leave Launceston on Friday next at noon?

I sincerely trust that the Victorian Government will not issue any proclamation prohibiting the importation of sheep from this Colony, as such a proclamation would be most injurious to our friends engaged in breeding and exporting stud sheep.

I am, &c.

The Hon. JAMES WHYTE, Tunbridge.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

Ballochmyle, Tunbridge, 19th May, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, containing copy of a telegram you had received from the Chief Secretary of Victoria, intimating the intention of his Government to issue a proclamation prohibiting the importation of Tasmanian sheep on account of certain representations of the National Agricultural Society of Victoria, "to the effect that scab prevails in a virulent form in Tasmania,"—that "as Victoria may now be almost considered clean, it is urged upon the Government to prohibit importation of sheep from Tasmania;" and they intimate their intention to "issue a proclamation accordingly."

I am also in receipt of a copy of your reply to the Victorian Chief Secretary's telegram, in which you inform him that a small flock of infected sheep had been found at Carrick, and that I had had them destroyed immediately.

I presume the action of the "National Agricultural Society of Victoria" has been caused by certain groundless reports which appeared in the *Australasian* and other Victorian papers to the effect that "scab in a virulent form," whatever that may mean, had broken out in Tasmania in "several clean Sheep Districts."

As a matter of fact the reports referred to are untrue, and about a week ago I wrote a letter addressed to the Editor of the *Australasian* contradicting them, which I suppose will appear in the next issue of that paper. I also authorised Mr. Fletcher, one of the Inspectors in the North, to contradict the reports which had appeared in the *Australasian* and other papers, in order to satisfy the minds of sheepowners in the Northern Districts, to which it appears these false reports more particularly applied; and that was done in a letter which appeared in the *Cornwall Chronicle* of the 14th instant.

It certainly appears to me that the Victorian Government have been somewhat hasty in acting on the representations of the "National Agricultural Association of Victoria," (but which after all can only be a few gentlemen in and around Melbourne, who form a portion of the executive body of the Society,) based upon mere newspaper reports, without in the first place applying to the Government here in order to ascertain if the reported outbreaks of scab in clean districts had taken place as alleged.

I am now preparing my annual report on the condition of the Tasmanian sheep, which will be ready some time in June. It will bring the returns up to the 1st of this month as usual; and will, I believe, satisfactorily demonstrate to the Government that the eradication of the Scab Disease in sheep is rapidly approaching its completion.

If the Victorian Government, on such grounds as those alleged, carry out their expressed determination, the consequences to stud-sheep breeders in this Colony will be most disastrous.

Moreover, it will not only be most unnecessary on sanitary grounds but it will be a breach of faith with this Colony, inasmuch as the resolutions and suggestions of the Conference of Inspectors at Sydney, to which the Victorian Government requested the Tasmanian Government to assent, do not contemplate the prohibition of importations of sheep from any country even in the future on account of the Scab Disease, because it is a disease which is easily controllable by such quarantine regulations as are set forth in the Conference Proceedings.

One of the reasons assigned by the Victorian National Agricultural Society, viz., that Victoria may now be "almost considered clean," is not a good reason as applied to this Colony, even if it had ever been contemplated or considered necessary at any time in the future to prohibit importations of stud sheep on account of scab. I have the last published Returns of Sheep under Quarantine in Victoria on account of Scab, and they do not show a cleaner bill of health in proportion to numbers than we have in Tasmania at the present moment.

I may add that, although we have exported stud sheep largely for the last four years to Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and New Zealand, I have never heard that a single diseased sheep has been detected.

From England and from California diseased sheep have been imported during the years referred to, but not one from Tasmania, so careful have we been to secure from possible infection sheep coming from the interior to Hobart Town and Launceston for exportation to the neighbouring Colonies.

The false reports which have given rise to this correspondence I believe have been originated here by a few persons who have been all along of opinion that the scab would never be eradicated; and who, even now, in the face of facts which ought to satisfy any rational mind, still maintain their absurd opinions, and to justify themselves do not hesitate to accept the suspicions and surmises of ignorant men as established facts. And unless I am much mistaken there are a few, and I am happy to say a very few, whose antipathies to the Scab Act are so deeply ingrained in their minds by the grossest ignorance, and the most unreasoning prejudice, that they permit themselves to make confident assertions of the existence of scab in localities of which they have no personal knowledge whatever. "The wish is father to the thought" with this small class; and at considerable risk of its being brought home to them one of these days, they persist in making rash and mischievous statements, utterly regardless of their truth or falsity, and equally reckless of the possible consequences, as in the present instance, which may result therefrom.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

The Hon. THOS. D. CHAPMAN, Colonial Secretary,
Hobart Town.

Tasmania,
Colonial Secretary's Office, 20th May, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the following telegram from you, dated the 18th instant :—

“The National Agricultural Society of Victoria bring under our notice the prevalence of Scab in a virulent form in Tasmania, and as Victoria may now be almost considered clean, it is urged upon the Government to prohibit the importation of Sheep from Tasmania; and we propose to issue a Proclamation accordingly.”

On receipt of which I immediately telegraphed to you as follows :—

“You need not be under any alarm about the report which has reached you respecting an outbreak of Scab in Tasmania.

“Our Chief Inspector of Sheep received a report from Carrick, near Launceston, last week that a few Sheep were found scabby in a small flock, and he had them immediately destroyed.

“I will send you a full report on the case and write you by next steamer, meanwhile this Government trusts you will not consider it expedient to issue any Proclamation prohibiting the importation of Sheep from Tasmania in Victoria.”

I had the honor of receiving the following Telegram from you in reply yesterday afternoon :—

“I will await your letter by next steamer.”

I have now the honor of forwarding to you a copy of a letter I received this morning from the Hon. James Whyte, our Chief Inspector of Sheep, by which you will see there is no cause for any alarm whatever on the part of your Government, or the owners and breeders of Sheep in Victoria, from the reported prevalence of Scab in a virulent form in Tasmania, and I trust will thoroughly satisfy your Government that there is no necessity whatever for the issue of a Proclamation prohibiting the importation of Sheep from Tasmania into your Colony.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

Victoria,
Chief Secretary's Office, Melbourne, 11th August, 1875.

SIR,

WITH reference to your letter of the 20th of May last, on the subject of the outbreak of Scab in Tasmania, and with a view to remove as far as possible all obstructions in the way of the cattle traffic between this Colony and the other Australasian Colonies, I have the honor to state that Regulations have been made under “The Diseases in Stock Act.”

I enclose two copies of the *Victoria Government Gazette* of the 10th instant, containing the Regulations, which are to take effect on the 1st of September next.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. H. ODGERS, (*for the Chief Secretary*).

The Hon. the Colonial Secretary, Tasmania.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 119.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 16th August, 1875.

THE following Regulations under the “Victorian Diseases in Stock Act, 1872,” promulgated by the Government of Victoria, are published for general information.

By His Excellency's Command,

THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

REGULATIONS UNDER “THE DISEASES IN STOCK ACT, 1872.”

WHEREAS by “The Diseases in Stock Act, 1872,” it is among other things enacted that the Governor in Council may from time to time make such regulations as may be deemed expedient, for all or any of the purposes mentioned in the fourth section of the said Act; And whereas by Order dated the thirteenth day of January, one thousand eight

hundred and seventy-three, the Governor in Council made certain regulations for the purposes aforesaid: And whereas it is desirable to make further regulations for such purposes: Now therefore His Excellency the Administrator of the Government, by and with the advice of the Executive Council, doth by this present Order, in exercise of the power conferred by the above recited Act, and every other power enabling him in that behalf, make the Regulations following; that is to say,—

1. *Scab and infectious and contagious disease.*—The disease known as the scab in sheep is hereby declared to be a contagious and infectious disease, and all sheep afflicted with such disease are hereby declared to be diseased for the purposes of "The Diseases in Stock Act, 1872."

2. *Introduction by sea of scabby sheep prohibited.*—The introduction of any sheep into the colony by sea known to be suffering from scab is prohibited.

3. *Partial application of previous regulations under the Act No. 451 to scabby sheep.*—The said regulations of the 13th day of January, 1873, so far as they relate to the introduction of sheep by sea, or sheep so introduced, shall be read as if scab was included in the first schedule to such regulations.

4. *Circumstances under which inspectors may authorise the introduction of sheep by sea.*—No inspector shall authorise the introduction of any sheep into the Colony under the said regulations until he has inspected the same, and is satisfied that the same is not suffering from any disease for the time being declared a contagious or infectious disease for the purposes of the said Act.

5. *Power to order the removal of infectious sheep from the colony and to destroy them if not removed.*—If in the opinion of any inspector of stock any sheep arriving by ship in any port or place in the Colony is suffering from any disease for the time being declared by the Governor in Council a contagious or infectious disease for the purposes of the said Act, such inspector shall forthwith order, by writing under his hand, that every sheep so arriving by such ship be removed from the Colony and Victorian waters within such time after the service of such order as may be named therein; and every such order shall be served on the master of such ship on board which such sheep may have arrived, or some owner or person having charge of such sheep; and in case any such order is not complied with within such time as aforesaid, or such further time as an inspector of stock may from time to time, by writing under his hand, allow, any inspector of stock may seize and destroy every sheep having arrived in the colony on board such ship in such manner as he may think fit.

6. *Treatment of sheep when landed.*—Every sheep introduced by sea into the colony shall, immediately on being landed, be removed to some quarantine ground determined by the Governor in Council under the said regulations, or some store or place in the city of Melbourne of which the Chief Inspector of Stock, or officer acting for him, may, by writing under his hand, approve for that purpose, and which shall be deemed a quarantine ground; and shall be detained there until an inspector of stock shall, by writing under his hand, authorise the removal thereof from such quarantine ground until the same has been dipped not less than twice, and within an interval of not more than ten days between such dippings, to the satisfaction of an inspector, in such mode and in such medicaments as may be for the time being prescribed in that behalf; and which the inspector shall see prepared under the proviso contained in any law now or hereafter to be in force relating to the prevention of scab in sheep; and every such sheep shall be dipped once at least within thirty days after the same is placed in such quarantine ground.

7. *Removal of sheep to store to be in waggons.*—Every order of the Chief Inspector of Stock approving of any known place as a quarantine ground shall determine the boundaries thereof, and when any sheep is removed as aforesaid to any such store or place, the same shall be so removed in some waggon or cart, and not otherwise.

8. *Expenses to be borne by owners.*—All expenses connected with the landing, detaining in quarantine, and dipping any sheep from the time of the arrival of such sheep until the time the same may be destroyed or released from quarantine, including the expenses of the destruction of any such sheep as may be destroyed, and of the removal and disposition of the carcasses of any such sheep as may be destroyed or die, shall be borne and paid by the owners thereof; and no inspector of stock shall authorise the introduction by sea of any sheep into the colony until some owner thereof, or some person on his behalf, has executed to the satisfaction of such inspector a bond to the Chief Inspector of Stock, with one surety, conditioning for the due payment of all such expenses, and every such bond shall be in such penalty as such inspector shall require, and every such bond may be in the form in the schedule hereto.

9. *Compliance with regulations.*—No inspector of stock shall authorise the introduction by sea of any sheep except on condition of compliance with the regulations for the time being in force in that behalf.

10. *Persons not to transgress regulations.*—No person shall do or cause to be done or assist in doing any act forbidden by these regulations, or obtain or endeavour to obtain or assist any one in obtaining or endeavouring to obtain, by fraud, any authority under these regulations, or forge any authority purporting to be issued under these regulations, or make use of any such forged authority, or fraudulently grant or issue any such authority, or obstruct or refuse to carry out the directions of any inspector or other person acting under the authority of these regulations.

SCHEDULE.

Know all men by these presents that we _____ of _____
 are jointly and severally held and firmly bound to _____ his executors, administrators, and assigns,
 in the sum of _____ of lawful money of Great Britain to be paid to the said
 his executors, administrators, and assigns, for the due payment whereof we hereby bind ourselves and
 of us our heirs, executors, and administrators, firmly by these presents.
 Sealed with our seals. Dated this _____ day of _____ in the year of our Lord
 The condition of this obligation is such that if the said _____ or either of them duly paid on
 demand all expenses payable under the regulations in force in that behalf by the owner or owners of certain sheep, that is to say:—
 which arrived in the colony of Victoria by the ship _____ on or about
 Then this obligation is to be void, or else remain in full force and virtue.

These Regulations are to come into force on the 1st of September, 1875.

And the Honorable Robert Ramsay shall give the necessary directions herein accordingly.

ROB. WADSWORTH,
 Clerk of the Executive Council.

Inspector of Sheep Office, 17th August, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the Chief Secretary of Victoria's Letter of the 11th instant covering certain Regulations under their "Diseases in Stock Act, 1872," which having perused I herewith return.

I see nothing in the Regulations that the Tasmanian Government can reasonably take exception to.

I have, &c.

(Signed) JAMES WHYTE.

The Hon. T. D. CHAPMAN, Colonial Secretary.

Tasmania,

Colonial Secretary's Office, 18th August, 1875.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th instant, enclosing Regulations under the "Diseases in Stock Act, 1872," for which I desire to return my thanks. The Regulations referred to have been published in the *Hobart Town Gazette*.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOS. D. CHAPMAN.

The Hon. the Chief Secretary, Victoria.

GOVERNMENT NOTICE.

No. 119.

16th August, 1875.

REGULATIONS "VICTORIAN DISEASES IN STOCK ACT, 1872."

WITH the Colonial Secretary's compliments.—Copies have been sent to all the Wardens, the Stipendiary Magistrates, the Collector of Customs, Sub-Collector of Customs, Launceston, the Manager (Hobart Town) and the Agent (Launceston) of the Tasmanian Steam Navigation Company.

(Signed) B. TRAVERS SOLLY.

Colonial Secretary's Office, 19th August, 1875.

The Chief Inspector of Sheep.