

(No. 39.)



1892.

PARLIAMENT OF TASMANIA.

THE CALIFORNIAN THISTLE ACT :

REPORT FOR 1891-2.

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



THE CALIFORNIAN THISTLE ACT, 1883.

REPORT BY CHIEF INSPECTOR.

Office of Inspector of Stock, Hobart, 1st July, 1892.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to furnish my Report upon the working of the Californian Thistle Act for the year ending 30th June.

In previous Reports I have specially drawn attention to the necessity for the amendment of our present law bearing upon the extermination of this noxious weed, and until this is done the infested area will extend, not from thistles being allowed to bloom and seed, but from the fact that patches of thistles are annually ploughed through and the roots harrowed over land that is free from their growth.

My last year's Report dealt with practical and scientific experiments that had been instituted in Victoria proving that this enemy to agriculturalists could be overcome. Constant cultivation by cutting off the upper part of the plant kills the roots. But sufficient public interest is not manifested to aid the Department in its endeavours to bring influence to bear in the direction of obtaining amended legislation, which would have the effect of enhancing the value of land that is infested by at least 50 per cent.

Inspectors have been vigilant in carrying out their duties under the Act, which have been performed to my satisfaction.

The Crown lands have received careful attention, and where thistles have been found arrangements have been made to keep them cut down.

A careful watch has also been kept to prevent hay containing thistle seed from being removed from place to place, which in the past has been the cause of increased thistle-infested areas.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

THOMAS A. TABART, *Chief Inspector.*

The Honorable the Chief Secretary.