

(No. 71.)



1880.

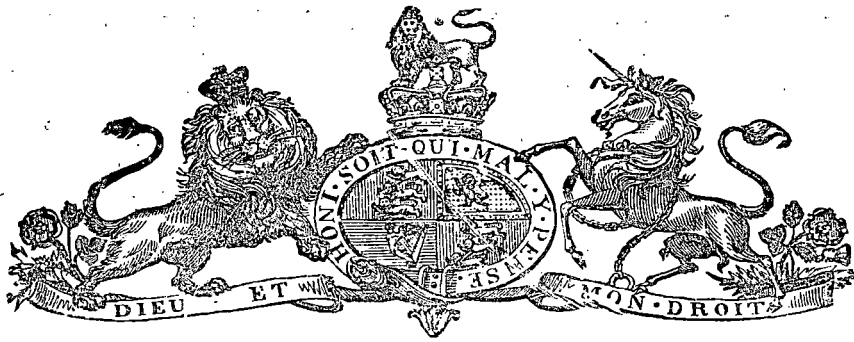
T A S M A N I A.

H O U S E O F A S S E M B L Y.

K I N G ' S I S L A N D :

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E R E L A T I N G T O T H E I M P O R T A T I O N
O F S T O C K.

Laid upon the Table by the Colonial Treasurer, and ordered by the House to be
printed, August 24, 1880.



Inspector of Sheep Office, 13th August, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to enclose for your information copies of a Correspondence I have had with the Chief Inspector of Stock, Victoria, with reference to King's Island and the importation into that Island of cattle from Victoria.

It appears from Mr. E. Curr's letter of the 19th July that the information I had received was correct.

This state of things involves very serious considerations which, if not very promptly dealt with by the Government, may result in the introduction of pleuro-pneumonia into the herds of Tasmania. I would suggest that in the proposed amendment of "The Contagious Diseases (Cattle) Act, 1877," a clause be introduced placing cattle on King's Island under the same restrictions as Victorian cattle are subject to.

I had an interview yesterday with Mr. Nicholas J. Brown, who takes much interest in the subject, and I have no doubt he will see both yourself and the Attorney-General with reference to the nature of the amendments I have suggested as appearing to me to be necessary in the Act 41 Vict. No. 18.

The amendments required are not of a nature likely to meet with any opposition in Parliament.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES WHYTE.

The Hon. WILLIAM MOORE, Colonial Secretary.

FORWARDED to the Honorable the Attorney-General. The Colonial Secretary is of the opinion that the suggestions here made by the Inspector of Sheep should be carried out.

WM. MOORE.
14th August, 1880.

THE suggestions made by the Inspector of Sheep have been embodied in a Bill which will shortly be submitted to Parliament.

J. S. DODDS,
23rd August, 1880.

(Copy.)

Tasmania, Inspector of Sheep Office, 14th July, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE received information that cattle and sheep have recently been landed on King's Island from Victoria.

Probably the sheep referred to are those I was already aware of.

Cattle, however, is a more serious matter. No notice has been given to me under "The Contagious Diseases (Cattle) Act," 41 Vict. No. 18.

Cattle from Victoria can only be landed at Hobart Town if for slaughter, and for other purposes they are subject to six months quarantine.

Non-compliance with the law involves a penalty of not less than £50 nor more than £200 and forfeiture of the cattle, to be disposed of in such manner as the Governor in Council may direct.

It is probable enough that the parties who occupy King's Island are ignorant of the law. If you can afford me any information on the subject I will feel obliged. I do not care to send an Inspector to the Straits for some months to come, besides probably enough what I have heard of may be only the landing of a few working bullocks or a cow or so for use on the Island. What I want to guard against is their being sent to Tasmania through ignorance of the law on the part of the owners of the cattle.

EDWARD M. CURR, *Esq.*, *Chief Inspector of Stock, Victoria.*

I have, &c.

JAMES WHYTE.

(Copy.)

Melbourne, 19th July, 1880.

SIR,

I HAVE the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 14th instant relative to the landing of Victorian cattle at King's Island. In reply I have the honor to state, on what I believe good authority, that sheep have not been found to answer on King's Island, and that all or most of those that were on the Island have been sold and landed in Victoria; and it is now the owner's intention to stock the Island with Victorian cattle, and I believe a number of the late Mr. Neil Black's herd have already been shipped from Belfast. I have forwarded to Mr. Giles, the owner of the cattle, through Messrs. Dalmahoy Campbell & Co., on your behalf, an extract from your letter on the subject of non-compliance with your law. Trusting that this will meet with your views,

I have, &c.

The Hon. JAMES WHYTE.

EDWARD M. CURR, *Chief Inspector of Stock.*

Inspector of Sheep Office, 18th August, 1880.

SIR,

I OBSERVE that a Notice of Motion has been given in the House of Assembly by the Member for Cumberland calling for Correspondence under "The Contagious Diseases (Cattle) Act, 1877," and any reports I may have received referring to King's Island.

As I presume the Motion will be an unopposed one, I have the honor to enclose an extract from a Report of Mr. Allison's on his return from King's Island in July, 1879.

I have, &c.

The Hon. WM. MOORE, *Colonial Secretary.*

JAMES WHYTE.

EXTRACT from Mr. Inspector ALLISON'S Report to the Chief Inspector of Sheep of a Tour of Inspection to certain Islands in Bass Straits, in June, 1879, but more particularly to King's Island, which it had been reported to the Chief Inspector was being stocked with sheep from Victoria.

"Of King's Island it may be no part of my duty to give an opinion, but I feel sure you will give me credit for desiring the general good only if I say it is a very great pity it should be locked up and almost useless as now. The climate is beautiful, and there are thousands upon thousands of acres of land capable of producing splendid artificial grasses or root crops, and for dairy and fattening farms it could hardly be surpassed. As a rule it is lightly timbered or has none at all, and the cost of improvement would be small. Then there are some of the finest beds of timber I ever saw, blue gum and blackwood, even beyond anything on the main land.

"The formation is granite; there is slate and quartz in many places, and I feel positive the Island contains both tin and gold.

"The Victorians now working at Currie Harbour Light fully appreciate it, and say 'only throw it open and it will be flooded within a year by our people.' Should such a place therefore be overlooked as at present?

"There are numerous rivers and creeks, with lakes and lagoons; thus it is well watered, and at some future date will become the home of thriving thousands.

"To its many advantages the Island has one drawback, viz., a poison weed, a kind of tare, which when ripe drives the stock mad and kills them, but on improved land it could be eradicated; even now it is not general."

F. ALLISON, *Inspector.*

NOTE.—I think it is probable that the plant referred to is the same or similar to one which is found in some of the coast districts of New Holland, which cattle are fond of when it is in its early growth.

JAMES WHYTE.
18. 8. 80.